



Stories of HOPE

August 2017

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



Wellington Archdiocesan Synod Theme

15-17 September 2017

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, 350-400 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 the editor or leave for collection at the parish office.

Jane Langham

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Deadline for next edition: 10 November 2017

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.

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With Thanks to:

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

Contents for August 2017

Magazine Policy Statements	2
Editorial column	4
A Question of Perspective	5
We Live in Hope	6
Celebrating 55 Years a Priest	8
Woe is Me	10
An Interview with Julie Smith	12
150 Years of SVdP in New Zealand	14
Living Rosary for Fatima Centenary	16
Vision of the Assumptionist Priests	18
Marist Sisters in Tawa	20
Pre-Planning your Funeral	23
St Francis Xavier School Report	24
St Pius X School Report	26
Our Parish Online	29
Family Events	30
Parish records: Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages	33
Notices, Coming Events	34
Message from Ninness	35

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From the Editor

by Jane Langham



Thank you to those who took the time to complete our online survey from the last edition. (All three of you!) All comments and ideas have been noted.

In this edition, as we are preparing for the Diocesan Synod in September, many of our contributions reflect different ways our parishioners are already living the directive “Go, you are sent”. It is too easy to assume this is just for priests and religious, though indeed they do have a special role. Fr Paul shares his thoughts on this (p.10) and Sr Francine gives us more insights into her life as a Marist Sister (p.20).

Lay people are also ‘sent’ to share the Good News in whatever place they live and work. An excellent example of service is the Society of St Vincent de Paul. They mark 150 years in New Zealand this year and we have an interesting report from Betty Durr of their quiet service in Tawa (p.14).

Julie Smith shares with us how her career as a teacher was also a means of living the Gospel and bringing faith into the daily curriculum. (p.12).

There is inspiration to be found in the obituaries for two well-loved parishioners,

Sr. Antonia Avey (p.21), who died in April, and Brian Martin (p.30) who died in March.

We hope that these stories, and all the others, will encourage you on your own journey.



[Back to contents](#)

A Poem of Perspective - author unknown

Today was the absolute worst day ever

And don't try to convince me that

There's something good in every day

Because, when you take a closer look,

This world is a pretty evil place.

Even if

Some goodness does shine through once in a while

Satisfaction and happiness don't last

And it's not true that

It's all in the mind and heart

Because

True happiness can be obtained

Only if one's surroundings are good

It's not true that

The reality

Creates

My attitude

It's all beyond my control!

And you'll never in a million years hear me say that

Today was a good day!

*Now read from the bottom
to the top*

What do you see in this picture?

Is it an old woman or a young one?

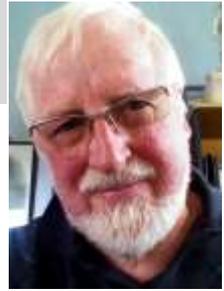
It's all a matter of perspective

[Back to
contents](#)



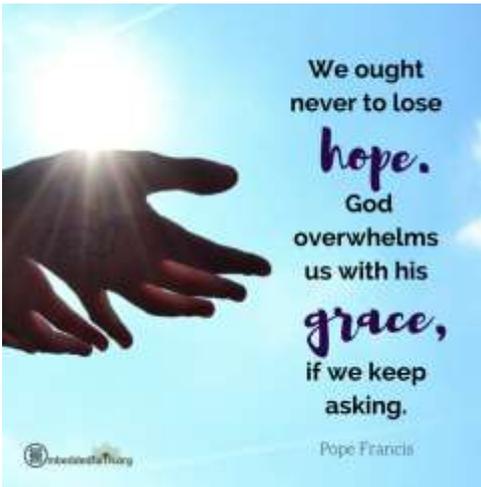
We Live in Hope

by Bernie Griffin



It has been said that Hope is that flicker of light that shines through suffocating darkness. When all seems lost, Hope gives us Hope.

St Paul talks about Faith, Hope and Charity(love). He says the greatest of these is Charity and we can believe that. But to a mere lay person, the three seem inseparable.



Pope Francis says Hope was one of the qualities that gave Mary strength to remain at the foot of the cross as her persecuted Son hung there, broken, bleeding, dying. We, in our human nature, can feel she must have suffered absolute despair, intense emotional agony. We can imagine she felt deserted and abandoned, betrayed even. Yet Pope Francis says: **Hope is what Mary, Mother of God, sheltered in her heart**

during the darkest time of her life: Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. That is Hope - she had it. And that Hope has renewed everything. May God grant us that grace.

He also called Hope “the risky virtue, the constant miracle”. Our new and enlarged parish is nearly three years of age. Those years have gone by very quickly. It has been a challenging time for us all, especially our priests who have shown great leadership through the changes. Our congregations are showing energy in their welcome mixture of cultural backgrounds. People are accepting the various changes, but more challenges lie ahead. Our extended parish of Tawa and Titahi Bay, dedicated to Our Lady of Hope, is in good heart.

[Back to contents](#)

Grateful thanks

From Dave Belz

“(I was) ... ill and you cared for me ...” Matt 25:36

“See how these Christians love one another”

Tertullian, 2nd c. western theologian

It can be a humbling experience being the recipient of true Christian kindness. Things have not been easy in our household during the last six months, with my wife, Dorothy, having had a series of falls resulting in a lumbar sprain and cracked pelvis, together with a number of other issues. It can be wearisome with one person doing the work of two, as well as attending to the nursing care needed.

Word soon got around the parish, and several kind persons brought us meals, easing the household burden, as well as visitors bringing various gifts, their company, consolation and encouragement.

This is just a brief note in appreciation to all those who **cared**. **I won't mention names, as you know who you are.** In all sincerity, our most grateful thanks.



[Back to contents](#)

55th Anniversary of Ordination

by *Denise Dorman*

Father Des Moosman was ordained in the Wellington Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on 29th June 1962 along with 17 other young men.

Archbishop McKeefry was away in Rome for the Vatican II Council meeting, so Bishop Kavanagh of Otago was asked to ordain them. They were all from different parishes and normally they would each have been ordained in their own parish, but Bishop Kavanagh was not willing to travel around the country so Wellington was chosen.

Fr Des's parish priest journey began in Whanganui East at St Anne's for the first 9 months and then he was moved to Kilbirnie for twelve months but during this time he was sent to relieve in Hataitai for 7 months. His next relieving job was in Levin for six months but this turned out to be for the next 10 years. Then it was back to Kilbirnie for ten more years, where he became very involved with the building of the new church. Stokes Valley was his next Parish, again for another 10 years.

Fr. Des arrived at St Pius X, Titahi Bay in February 2007.

Although of an age when most of us would be enjoying retirement, during his time at Titahi Bay, Fr Des endeared himself to his parishioners through his willingness to support, his genuine caring and his commitment to the spiritual well-being of all. His time at the Bay coincided with a number of special celebrations which he participated in fully. As well, he promoted addressing a number of structural and deferred maintenance issues with the church property.

His health was deteriorating but he was determined to remain as parish priest while the amalgamation of Tawa and Titahi Bay took place. Once this was achieved, he retired as parish priest, but was still saying Mass three days a week for the locals, who really valued that. He now lives at Summerset Retirement Village in Aotea.

To celebrate the 55th anniversary of his ordination, a special Mass was held on 29 June, concelebrated with Fr John van der Kaa. This was attended by the pupils of St Pius X school, along with many parishioners and several of Fr Des' special friends. The morning tea afterwards was a joyous occasion. Fr John supplied a lovely cake, which was presented to Fr. Des by Marie Prescott, Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council.



[Back to contents](#)

Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16)

by Fr Paul O'Connor

When I was ordained deacon almost forty years ago, the bishop presented me with the Book of Gospels with these words: *“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach”.*



Since then I have preached on thousands of occasions and, somehow, preaching becomes harder, not easier.

For the life of me I can't remember what I learned in my homiletics (preaching) class.

But I had two very perceptive teachers. The first was an elderly great-aunt. As a little boy I sometimes stayed with her. On Sundays she promised me an ice-cream if I could tell her what the sermon was about. This early incentive meant that I learned to listen intelligently – albeit covetously. My second teachers were the college students I taught. To survive and flourish as a teacher means that one must prepare and present in a way that will both instruct and interest. And so, while I preach, I scan faces. It is easy to determine whether the congregation are following, whether they are distracted or whether they are becoming bored.

A preacher has to work with three strands:

One must prepare and present in a way that will both instruct and interest

The first is the Biblical texts. Who wrote them? When were they written? Who were the original listeners or hearers? What did the text mean in its original context? Unless the preacher can answer these questions he – or she – may be indulging in pious rhetoric that has little or nothing to do with sound biblical scholarship. On any Sunday there are three readings. Rather than serving up a dense biblical stew I prefer to focus on one of the readings.

The second strand situates the themes of the weekly readings within our church's tradition of wisdom. The technical term for this is canonical criticism. How has this text been understood and developed both within the Bible and within subsequent Christian thinking and preaching. Pride of place is given to the early Christian fathers and mothers, early preachers, monastics and saints whose lives were imbued by the Biblical word. And, because I am an Augustinian of the Assumption, I am always interested in – and fascinated by – Saint Augustine's Biblical commentaries.

Both of these strands presume that I am a serious reader and student both of the Bible and good theology. Anything that Pope (emeritus) Benedict has written deserves careful attention. At the moment I am entranced by the writings of Aidan Nichols, an English Dominican, and by the late Hans Urs Von Balthasar. Both Pope Benedict and Aidan Nichols have acknowledged their spiritual and intellectual indebtedness to him. I am also re-reading Ronald Knox, the English Biblical translator and preacher. Other preachers will have their favourite writers: what matters is that we are nourished and challenged by holy and serious thinkers.

How can I help the congregation to live Biblically, critically and faithfully?

The third strand is that of our post-Christian and post-modern global culture. How do I reflect

and live Biblically and critically in this milieu? How can I – must I – help the Sunday congregation to live Biblically, critically and faithfully? If I and they are not up to this challenge then I will spoon-feed an unremitting diet of Biblical fundamentalism or a warm, semi-pagan low-cal 'gospel of self-esteem' or even a *smoothie* of bland Catholic niceness.

One of my theology professors – a brilliant and eccentric mentor – once told us that we should destroy all our sermon notes at the end of every church year. Why? The preacher is changing, the congregation is changing, the church is changing and the world is changing. The eternal Word never changes. Truth does not change. Culture changes and so do we. This message remains constant. The challenge for the preacher is to uncover – reveal – the relevance of the Bible. Like the psalmist of old, the contemporary preacher must set out each week to teach God's people to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land" (Psalm 137:3).

[Back to contents](#)

An Interview with Julie Smith

by Jane Langham

Julie, you are from a Tawa family. Can you tell me a bit about that and also how you came to be a teacher?



The Armstrong family of Nola and Eldon came to Tawa in October 1955 with their children Julie, Robert, Sheryl and Ross. Eldon came to manage the Armstrong Timber Company, which supplied timber for most of the new homes in Tawa. At that time Tawa was a developing suburb, recently opened up by the rail link to Wellington. It was a time of phone party lines and toll calls to Wellington. Water tanks were in all homes. Life was very much 'community focussed'. Everyone worked together for the parish and the community.

Social life for parishioners was mainly based around parish activities with working bees, preparing school lunches, Catholic Women's League, indoor bowls, helping new families settle in, etc. My father, Eldon, and George Boderick were involved with building the school hall (nearly 60 years ago) and the two of them took very great care to make sure the floor was perfectly level for the Catholic Indoor Bowls Club that was to meet there.

Everyone worked together for the community & parish.

When I left St Mary's College I had no thoughts of becoming a teacher. I worked for two years for AMP and decided that office life was not for me. So I made a decision to become a teacher and loved it from the start. I felt that I could make a difference to the lives of children as they were educated. Apart from a year spent in London, all my teaching has been in Tawa schools, initially Tawa and Linden then for 23 years at St. Francis Xavier.

What has inspired you as a teacher and life in general?

My parents were involved in many local activities and sports clubs. Eldon was on the Tawa Borough Council (in the days before amalgamation with Wellington) so I found it natural to be engaged in the community.

Russell and I married in 1966 and settled in Tawa. Initially, when my children were young, I was involved in Plunket, Save the Children, sports' coaching and school parents' committees.

My time at St Francis Xavier School was a wonderful experience. I loved teaching the children and seeing them progress and mature. It was especially rewarding that I could teach the children about religion and incorporate it into every day life – it being a Catholic school. When I started teaching at St Francis Xavier I was appointed as the first lay person in the role of Director of Religious Studies. This was a task that previously had been performed by the Brigidine Sisters. I continued in this position for the rest of my time at St Francis Xavier. In this role I became more aware of the 'special character' of Catholic schools.

I was always brought up to be aware of the need to help and love others

All of the teachers at the school worked as a team in a friendly atmosphere well supported by the parents and their families. I felt that teaching at this school was like an extension of my family life. I even taught my own children, Gregory, Melinda and Rebecca and my nieces and nephew. The special character of the school and the loving caring atmosphere was always evident.

Teaching is a part of your life, not a job that you leave behind at the end of the working day. I have always connected with pupils and their families outside of school.

You are also a longstanding member of the Catholic Women's League – what part has that played in your life?

My mother, Nola, was a life member of CWL and it seemed only natural for me to follow on, so I joined once I had finished with commitments to my children. The Catholic Women's League was founded over 100 years ago in England, spreading to New Zealand in 1931. Our charitable works are always needed in the community, supporting mission countries and other local charities.

Local branches of CWL also have input into remits and submissions to select committees in parliament, through the National CWL Committee. All branches work under the motto "*Faith and Service*".

Being a member has enabled me to live in the way I was always brought up – to be aware of the need to help and love others.

[Back to contents](#)



“Making a Difference, not a Fuss”

by Betty Durr

**150 years of the St Vincent de Paul Society in
New Zealand and 60 years in Tawa**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in Paris, France, in 1833 by a group of men, led by Frédéric Ozanam, with the aim of trying to alleviate the many and great social needs of every kind that followed the French revolution. The Catholic Church and clergy were also very much out of favour at the time. This could be likened in many ways to the situation in our world today. The Society spread rapidly all over France and then around the world, meeting whatever needs there were in each location.



French Marist priest Fr Jean-Baptiste Chataigner introduced the Society to New Zealand in 1867, establishing a group in Christchurch. The first Wellington conference was established in 1876 by another Marist, Fr Jean-Baptiste Petitjean and Charles O’Neill, a Scotsman who did much to spread the Society in New Zealand and Australia.

Today, the Society in New Zealand has 1,600 members in 135 conferences. There are also around 2,000 ‘Young Vinnies’ (youth members) whom we all hope will continue their involvement after leaving school. The Society is the largest lay organisation in the Church.

(Source: Marist Messenger, August 2017 article by Michael Fitzsimons)

The Tawa Conference was established by the late John Nelson in 1957. John was the first President and he expended much of his time and talents over many years fulfilling the call to assist the poor and needy, the lonely and the under-privileged.

Being a relative latecomer, with only 20 years of service, I have had to pore over old minute books and sundry papers for information, and many of the committee members and office holders mentioned became well known to me when I came to our parish as a young mother in the early sixties and, of course, they, like me were all fit and eager! The history of the Parish will be sprinkled with names like Jack

Nolan, Norman Pike, Peter Malcolm, Harry Craig and Pat McGill (who is still a Vincentian) and Kathy Surgenor. I cannot name every past member of the Society, but they, and God, know who they were and what they achieved through helping the needy on a person-to-person basis, giving freely of their time and friendship, irrespective of their customer's religious or cultural background. I think it is testament to the value of the Society that it is still relevant in the year 2017. Our earlier Vincentians were deeply involved with the settlement of refugee families and the ongoing concern for their welfare, whereas today the Red Cross drives this particular mission, with the assistance of the Catholic and Anglican Archbishops and their flocks. The Porirua Mental Hospital has been largely disbanded, rendering visits and provision of sweets and cigarettes irrelevant. Even visiting the elderly and lonely is a bit different these days as we are all getting elderly ourselves and I believe the Privacy Act might preclude the passing on of information as to the who's and the whys.

***We welcome any opportunity to be of assistance
in any way we practically can***

We need you parishioners to be our eyes and our ears. The delivery of food parcels now takes a great deal of our 'service' time as nobody is immune to times of hardship, ill health and emergencies and may need material help and encouragement. Members are rostered to visit Longview Rest Home and assist at the Compassion Relief Centre in Wellington with the serving of nutritious meals served in a warm and congenial atmosphere. Where there is a known need, they enjoy visiting the lonely and shut-ins to share company and conversation, as prescribed in the Society handbook. Social interaction is very important. We welcome any opportunity to be of assistance in any way we practically can. For instance, we collected bedding to give to Christchurch quake victims and those seeking help through the shop, and were privileged to fully equip the kitchen of a refugee's house in Porirua. That is the mission of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

I must acknowledge parishioners who used to work at the Vinnies shop in Porirua, which dispenses welfare in the shape of free household goods and on-sells donated items, with all moneys raised dedicated to the Society's work. They are just some of the unsung heroes of Our Lady of Hope parish.

In conclusion, the Vinnies are still here supported by our wonderful priests and religious. Thank you to all who donate food to Our Lady's Larder, furniture and bedding and monetary gifts through the office. Thank you to all those who have

worked for and supported us over the years and a big thank you to the current committee who have been so hard-working and supportive of myself. Thanks to God who inspires and guides us – I know He will continue to do so.

Note: For many years there was a very active Conference in Titahi Bay, which was disbanded some time ago. However, Ian McLean carried on the work solo before joining with Plimmerton. With the formation of Our Lady of Hope Parish, Ian joined the Tawa Conference where he is a valued member.

If you would like to join the St Vincent de Paul group in our parish or to help in any other way, please contact Betty on 232 8131 (President).

[Back to contents](#)

Living Rosary for Fatima Centenary

by Jane Langham

To mark the start of the Fatima Apparitions Centenary, (May to October 2017), the Centre for Marriage and the Family organised a 'Living Rosary' in Our Lady of Fatima church on Saturday 13 May. People came from all over Wellington to attend this special commemoration.

For a 'Living Rosary' there were (battery operated) tea-light candles around the church, one for each bead of the rosary. An individual or family stood by each one - there were more than enough people for every bead! Each in turn placed a flower at the statue of Our Lady then led the next *Hail Mary*.

There was a reading, reflection and hymn verse between each decade.

The Mission statue of Our Lady used for the event is one that is 'hosted' by a different family each week. At the end of the rosary prayers, this statue was handed on from the current host family to the next.

Look out for more special events between now and 13 October to mark this special centenary.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.





The Assumptionist Fathers *By Fr John Van der Kaa AA*

All Religious Congregations hold a General Chapter every 6 years, to elect new members for the General Council and to plan for the future. Below is an abridged translation of the report from the recent Assumptionist Chapter, held in Valpre (France). This gives us insight into the charism and work of the Assumptionist priests who have served this parish for twenty-four years.



**Assumptionist Founder
Emmanuel D'Alzon**

Some of us belong to more than one family. Fr Paul, Fr John Heijnen (living in 'Summerset', Aotea) and I belong to a religious order going by the above name. The Congregation is divided into 6 Provinces and we belong to the European Province. The General Council has a house in Rome where, apart from our General Superior, Fr Benoît Grière, there are another 10 priests and two brothers.

At the recent General Chapter, Fr. Grière was re-elected Superior General, as were some of the other Council Members. In his speech, Fr Benoît Grière, said that three words kept drawing his attention: conversion, reform and reorganisation.

Conversion: as individuals and as communities we have the ambition that we can change and place ourselves under the breath of the Spirit. It's a strong ambition, but a necessary one. Without it we could founder into insignificance. Our world needs witnesses, men and women totally committed to the Gospel. Fragile people, but moving forward in the certain hope that God will never abandon them.

Reform is the concern of the whole Church. The Assumptionist Congregation wants to be part of this movement, which Pope Francis is asking for, so that our community will be always more welcoming, more fraternal, more generous and in solidarity, especially towards the poor and the little ones. This reform means that we are willing to go to the peripheries, to bring the good news to those whom God loves. As Assumptionists, we cannot be apostles without being completely involved in our Community.

The Church is going through a period of rapid change and there is a need to adapt. Our *reorganization* presents us with failures and gaps, but it is at the heart of our

reflections. We want an Assumption Congregation where every person can feel part of an international and missionary body, a multicultural entity which recognizes the richness and particular fruitfulness of each culture, but which does not favour one to the detriment of the other.

Our world needs witnesses, men and women totally committed to the Gospel. Fragile people, but moving forward in the certain hope that God will never abandon them.

Have we taken the right way? The way of the Holy Spirit? Have we been prophets? We need to be faithful to our vocation, our response to God's call, without mediocrity, without compromise, but a life according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It implies the audacity with which we respond to the needs of our world. No need to have everything in order to turn to the poorest, to those who hunger and thirst for justice and peace. You need faith. Quite often we are afraid and hesitant because we feel that we are not ready to act. We really need to engage, body and soul. We are an apostolic body sent to ends of the earth to bring the good news to the poor. We need to break down walls, be they linguistic, cultural, social or ideological. We do not belong to a political party, we are not followers of a philosophy, we are disciples of Jesus Christ, called to follow him all the days of our life.

In his final address, our General Superior talks about the apostolic principles of our Congregation. One of them is *Education*, the formation of men and women, in particular the weakest among them. This education can take place in our parishes, our publications (media), in the families we guide, in the various movements we undertake. Special attention goes out to the world of the young. We share with them the transmission of HOPE. Vocations too, are important to us. We are convinced that religious life in the Assumption can make people happy; Within religious life we help people to reconcile with themselves, with their brothers, with creation and with God.

The next point of interest is the alliance between the *laity* and the religious. We are not a clerical institution, but promoters of brotherhood. The Church is a community of brothers and sisters, equal in dignity, but diverse in function, all called to become saints. We need to encourage the development of an Assumptionist laity.

Our General then defends the fact that as Assumptionists we have always been 'polyvalente' (having many different functions or forms) in our apostolic choices. He then concentrates on the decisions for the next 6 years.

One of those is the integral formation of new members, a formation which will give them the zeal, the audacity and the courage to battle for God's Kingdom. We do not want people who are lukewarm or half asleep.

We wish to allow the growth of 'new' provinces, but at the same time we must not forget the 'old' provinces. We need to establish a mission plan for these countries, where the faith was once strong (*and that includes New Zealand*) and where the fire needs to be rekindled. We need to be new wineskins. That's a considerable job, because it means to make room for God in our lives. We are adventurers of the Kingdom. Emmanuel d'Alzon is our inspiration, we are his sons and we continue his work with the same zeal he had.

[Back to contents](#)

Marist Sisters in Tawa

by Sr Francine McGovern sm

I was invited to speak at the most recent Combined Churches of Tawa Service (in June) about my life as a Marist Sister. This is my way of living my Christian vocation. Below is what I shared with the Tawa community.

I came to live in Linden in 1997 with Sr Antonia Avey, who died in April of this year, and we then moved to St Catherine's Terrace in Tawa to live in a community of four Sisters. I was recalled to Auckland in 2007, remaining there until 2013 when I was asked to return to Tawa, which I was most happy to do.

The Marist Sisters belong to the Society of Mary, founded in France in 1817 to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Mary lived it. It comprises the Marist Fathers, the Marist Sisters, the Missionary Sisters of Mary, the Marist Teaching Brothers and Lay Marists, who are found in many countries throughout the world. This year all the branches of the Society are celebrating their Bi-Centenary. We religious men and women consecrate ourselves to God, taking vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. We live mostly in community and dedicate ourselves to a life of prayer and an apostolic life of service in the world. We engage in a variety of ministries: teaching, nursing, social work, parish ministry, chaplaincies, catechetics, retreat work, as well as outreach to those on the margins: prisoners, refugees, those who have been trafficked, disabled, etc.

In Aotearoa-NZ we are a small branch of 24 sisters, ministering in a variety of ways in Auckland, Kaikohe, Rotorua and Tawa. I live with Sr Margaret Vaney and together we are inserted into the local and parish community as well as working with a group called ANZRATH, which is Australia & New Zealand Religious against Trafficking of Human Persons.

A recent visitor to Wellington was Kevin Hyland, Anti Slavery Commissioner from the UK. He said the priority is victim identification and care of victims and that faith groups are the best groups to make contact with victims. He spoke highly of religious women, churches and the Salvation Army being more effective and less intimidating than police for initial contacts and support. He encouraged us to keep raising awareness about trafficking and exploitation.

Sr Margaret also works with Pregnancy Help and Age Concern and I with the Redwood Club, St Vincent de Paul and U3A. We try to fit in wherever we can be of service in Mary's way. Pope Francis calls us to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.

God's blessings

[Back to contents](#)



Remembering Sr Antonia Avery - died 29 April 2017

When I heard that Antonia had gone to her real home, these lines (with a slight gender change) came to mind - lines from the poem 'Requiem' by Robert Louis Stephenson:

Here she lies where she longed to be

Home is the sailor, home from sea

And the hunter home from the hill.

Antonia had a great desire and longing to be with God, which in the latter years of her life she expressed often.

In *Sr Antonia's Story*, where she writes about her life and in special detail her 23 years as a missionary in Fiji, she speaks of a



happy and united family life with an open door to anyone who cared to call. This characterised Toni's attitude towards anyone who called at our door during the 10 years I lived with her in Linden and Tawa. (1997-2007)

Her work here was mostly with refugees who benefited greatly by Antonia's teaching skills. One of them, who came from Cambodia, wanted to set up a hairdressing business and Antonia spent a lot of time taking him around and showing him what that would entail. He changed his mind, but did manage to set up a hairdressing business in his garage later. A young Somali girl was another of Antonia's pupils and she took infinite pains with her. She came to live in a bedsit opposite our house in Linden, where she received a lot of mentoring and instruction. Another Chinese gentleman with his wife went to see her several times when she moved North and they still asked after her 10 years later.

We were told what a wonderful difference she made there, greeting newcomers and visitors with a cheerful smile and a kind word as well as making a great contribution to the life of the residents with her astuteness, sense of humour and prowess at rummykub in the early days and Scrabble later. Prue, the Manager, said she was one of life's special ladies, everyone loved her and she was a joy to have every day. She would walk around humming and singing, often telling someone how nice she looked and that if the admired item of clothing was left around, she'd take it and put in her wardrobe. Sr. Gemma recounts that in probably the last game of Scrabble she ever played, Antonia beat her by getting TWO words of 7 letters, thus receiving two bonuses! This is spite of being in a lot of pain! Prior to her illness, she was a dab hand at cryptic crosswords, crochet and knitting.

May She Rest in Peace

[Back to contents](#)

What kind of robbery is least dangerous? A safe robbery.

Teacher: "You missed school yesterday, didn't you?"

Student: "Not very much."

Pre-Planning Your Funeral

by Jane Lee

For most church rituals, some form of preparation is required. However, when it comes to funerals, the majority of people do not plan or leave instructions as to their final wishes.

Matthew 24:36 says *“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”* Thus the fact remains that we are only on this earth for a set time.

Pre-planning your funeral is one final way you can help your family with what you would like. You may select the readings, hymns and/or appropriate music. Will a rosary or vigil service be held? Will you leave more detailed plans? This, hopefully, will ease the stress that families experience when one we love dies, and it ensures that your wishes are met.

When my own dad died in 2015, the priest who was going to preside at the funeral couldn't believe how organised we were. This was because dad had had several 'near-death' experiences and left clear instructions with us for his funeral. This made it a lot easier; we didn't have to decide which readings and hymns reflected his life and his love of the Lord.

Some parishioners have already left instructions with the parish office for their funerals. These are kept in the safe until required. We also ask that a copy is given to the family member(s) who will be making arrangements so they are aware of your wishes.

Frs John and Paul are willing to meet parishioners and help them plan their funerals. We have a funeral planning book available which has a selection of suitable readings and prayers of intercession plus a form to be filled in containing the personal information that a funeral home will require.

Some might think that it is morbid, pre-planning a funeral. But it can help your family with important decisions: will we have a burial or cremation and at what cemetery do I want to be interred?

So please consider what you would like and contact one of our priests or the office to make your arrangements. This will help ease your family's grief at a difficult time. They will know that they are carrying out your final wishes.

[Back to contents](#)

St Francis Xavier School -
'Strength & Gentleness' *by Joan Woods (Principal)*



The start of Term 2 saw our Year 5 and 6 students head off to **camp** at El Rancho, Waikanae. They were given the opportunity to take part in a range of outdoor pursuits which included kayaking, rock wall climbing, archery, waterslide, beach trip and go-karts. While our senior students were away at camp, the rest of the school enjoyed taking part in outdoor activities such as walks, putting up tents, reading in tents, survival activities and nature art.

St Francis Xavier School attended the 10.30am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima church to celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Fatima** during May.



The children were reminded about the message Our Lady gave the three children when she appeared to them at Fatima 100 years ago. Class liturgies have continued where parents are always welcome to join us. A **Liturgy** was also held for the **Ascension** and **Pentecost**. An Enrolment Mass was celebrated in May for those children taking part in this year's Sacramental programme and recently First Reconciliation took place at St Pius X church.

Our **Young Vinnies Group** is given the opportunity to realise that there are people in society in need and to encourage them to help those people. Recently they visited Longview Rest home in Tawa where the children chatted with a group of residents about their lives and time at school.

A **Pasifika consultation** evening was held at school commencing with a shared meal followed by sharing of Pasifika National Standards data. We were also very fortunate to have Bernard Mangakahia perform for us at school. Bernard used song, dance and music from his Polynesian heritage to share messages of being courageous and resilient.

A **Māori Whānau Hui** evening was recently held which commenced with a performance from our **Kapa Haka** group. Grace was said by one of our pupils in Māori, we shared a meal together and then there was an opportunity to look at Māori achievement data.

Matariki, the Māori New Year, was celebrated through Literacy and the Arts and some gardening activities.

Children enjoyed testing their fitness with our school **cross country** races, Tawa zone cross country and Interzone cross country where 11 of our students represented our school. Children are also involved in learning **soccer** and **squash skills** this term, through the Tawa Soccer Club and the Tawa Squash Club.

A **Five Next Term party** was held to welcome those students who will start school in Term 3. This was a highlight for our Kowhai class.

A **Wacky Hair day** was held with all donations going to Catholic Social Services. It was amazing to see the creativity of some of our students, not to mention teachers!

Our **Parents and Friends committee** recently introduced pizzas regularly to their Friday lunches. Friday lunches are a great fundraiser for our school. Recently Parents and Friends were able to purchase a brand new barbecue for the school.

This term finished on a high note with Parents and Friends' family **Disco**. This popular annual event was a huge success with children dancing to great music, there was lots food on offer and a great time was had by all.

[Back to contents](#)

St Pius X School - by Christine MacDonald (Principal)

‘WHANAU-ATUA-KURA-AROHĀ Together we Shine’



This term has been fruitful with many exciting things happening and students learning new things.

Pirate Book Fair



In the first few weeks of term we held our annual Book Fair with the theme ‘Pirates’ to help raise funds for our library. On Friday 19 May the children came to school dressed as their favourite pirate character. What an interesting array of costumes we had!

Zealandia Visit: On Thursday 8 June the senior classes were fortunate enough to go to Zealandia and experience our native flora and fauna. This was a free trip – we were so blessed!

Matariki Performance

Over the term our students have been learning about Matariki – the Māori New Year. Their learning was presented to our community at our Matariki concert in late June. This was



followed by our powerful Roopu Kapa Haka group who performed waiata-a-ringa about Matariki. We are so grateful to our staff and whanau for supporting and teaching our students.

Catholic Special Character: Early in Term 2, Bishop Viard College hosted St Pius X senior students at two events. They held a fun-filled sports day for us on Friday 12 May and then on Thursday 16 May our senior students joined the other Catholic primary schools from our area in experiencing school life at Bishop Viard College at their Open Day.

We celebrated the beginning of term two with a school Mass at St Pius X Church on Monday 15 May. We continue our weekly school prayer assemblies as well as staff prayers. Staff also participated in the Religious Education Cluster meeting and learned more about Amoris Laetitia. On behalf of our school, I participated in the Synod preparation afternoon at Bishop Viard College on Saturday 27 May.

This term our Religious Education focus has been The Holy Spirit. Children have been learning about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, Pentecost as well as many other things about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

On Saturday 24 June at St Pius X Church, we celebrated the Rite of Reconciliation with students from St Pius X School, St Francis Xavier School as well as parishioners from Our Lady of Hope parish. Congratulations to you all! We look forward to supporting you through Confirmation and First Eucharist later this year.

I was blessed to be able to attend the New Zealand Catholic Primary Principals' Conference in Wellington on 22 and 23 June. This conference was refreshing and helped me to continue to focus on our core purpose – the Catholic education of our children.

In New Zealand we forget how lucky we are – that is, until we are made aware of what school is like for other children in other countries. Many Catholic schools supported Caritas on Friday 7 July in their Mufti Mania promotion. The purpose of this mufti day was to raise funds (via a gold coin donation) to enable Nawi School in Fiji to access power and learning resources.

More recently Father John van der Kaa, our school and parish participated in a special Mass to celebrate Father Des Moosman's 55th anniversary of being a priest. This was a special occasion where the school and parish joined together to celebrate Father Des' achievement. A morning tea followed with a special cake for Father Des. Congratulations Father Des – this is a great achievement! Father John isn't far behind you!!

Support Staff Day

We are a small school and our staff do so many different things to keep our school

running smoothly. On Wednesday 14 June we celebrated Support Staff Day – we thanked our Office Manager, Angeline O’Connor and Teacher Aides, Julie de Boer, Beryl O’Neill, Mei Rideout and Louis Demicoli, for all they do for us in our school. We are truly grateful for these amazing people.

PB4L at St Pius X School: At St Pius X School we reward our students for Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). We do this through a range of rewards. One of these is our C.R.E.W. afternoon of games with our whanau groups which is held at the end of each term.



Another way we reward Positive Behaviour for Learning at school is through our *Gotcha* morning tea once a term with me, the principal. The students who receive the most points for the term per class are the lucky winners! Well done to those lucky students who had morning tea with me! Congratulations!

New Enrolments

If you know of anyone who is interested in having their child go to a Catholic School, we are always interested in talking with them. Please ask them to contact our school office on 236 7006 or on office@saintpius.school.nz for more information about enrolment. I would like to thank our community for all the support you give to our school, St Pius X.

[Back to contents](#)

A True Story from not too far from here ...

The shy 6 year old had watched the bold big boy in her parish at the sign of peace time. He swaggered as he raised both hands in ‘V for victory’ signs and said “Peace man” to all around.

She could cope with shaking hands with the people she knew well in her parish. But it was a different story when before Easter her family went to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral. She would have to shake hands with strangers!

An idea came to her. At the fateful time she smiled sweetly ... then raised two fingers to the person standing beside her ...

Our Parish Online

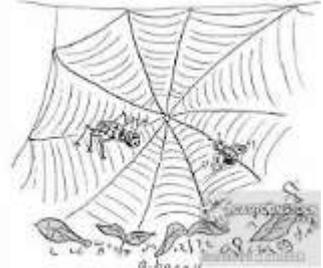
by Tony Barkley

Did you know that our parish has a web site and a Face Book page?

You can find the parish newsletters, current and past editions of *Stories of Hope*, photos and reports of special events, not to mention all the various duty rosters. See: tawacatholic.org.nz

Social media is a very important part of communication within our Parish. Our Face Book page keeps you up to the minute with parish activities.

However, web sites and Face Book pages are only relevant if kept up to date. I have been updating and maintaining the parish online presence since the web site was first started some years ago, but I left Tawa and have been living in Tau-ranga since 2016. I really need to have parish locals who will take over the maintenance of content.



We need interested people of all ages to assist with running of our Face Book page and web site.



This could be in supplying photos or news items, loading newsletters and Parish/school events or sourcing great thought-provoking quotes/pictures. You will get any training or help you need to get started, if needed.

If you have that hidden talent you want to explore then contact me at: hopeweb@xtra.co.nz

[Back to contents](#)

“Mum, there’s a man at the door collecting for the Old Folk’s Home. Shall I give him Grandad?”

Remembering Brian Alphonsus Martin

by David Belz



30 August 1929 – 24 March 2017

Brian was the fifth of six children born to his parents George and Emily Martin in Invercargill. He came to Tawa in 1968, teaching at Linden School. We celebrated his funeral on 29 March attended by a very large congregation, tribute to his involvement in so very many aspects of our community.

Words and phrases during his service included: *Brian of the loud voice, of jokes, of wisdom, of faith, a pillar of the church, pillar of the community, a simple-living wise man.*

He had prescribed his own order of service. His choice of Entrance Hymn *Come as You Are* reflected his own openness to all-comers. Celebrant Fr Paul O'Connor dwelt on Brian's choice of gospel reading John 1:35-39 inviting us to "Come and see". Although he never married, Brian was still a strong family man, proud of his nephews and nieces to the third generation, many of them taking an active role in the service. In his eulogy, Quaid Martin mentioned his gratitude for Brian financing their education, so typical of his uncle's generosity.

Brian's youth saw him active in several sports including athletics and tennis, serving on several sporting bodies, becoming a NZ selector, spotting talent for Davis Cup prospects. In later life, he would become the Regional Coach for Lawn Bowls, and a Life Member of the Tawa Bowling Club. He always had an endless fund of amusing yarns to distract his opposing skips from their game.

During his teaching career here in Tawa, Brian, with others, initiated the combined schools Tawa Music Festival. Active in the Scouting Movement, he became District Commissioner, Kenepuru. An illustration of the rapport he had with children is shown in this story of one cub camp (sleep over) in the Linden Scout Den (since demolished). Brian was asked to be Campfire

Chief (they used an electric campfire indoors). The boys were jumping out of their skins with excitement. In a very short time Brian, with the skilful use of songs and stories, had them calm and ready to go to sleep. The sleepless night the leaders had anticipated didn't eventuate thanks to Brian.

His faith was all-important to him, regularly attending daily Mass, one of the first lay Eucharistic Ministers and Readers in our parish. He was always encouraging new people to join these ministries and he would then train and encourage them in this. Brian was always keen to help the Alpha courses, mainly through his hospitality skills. His generosity to those in need became legendary but was always discrete.

When the idea of restarting a parish magazine was agreed by a post-Parish Mission meeting, Brian and Fr Chris Penders gathered together a small team in 2002. Brian's vision and enthusiasm assisted the success of Tawa Catholic News (which has now become Stories of Hope, with our enlarged parish). This was just one of many projects he encouraged or initiated as his own personal legacy.

On his 80th birthday in August 2009, Fr John presented Brian with an illuminated plaque, a special Papal Blessing from Rome, in recognition of his life of faithfulness, service to the parish, and most of all for his vocation as a teacher. He had taught hundreds, if not thousands, of young people and been a source of blessing for them. He had served the parish and community with cheerful faith, discipline, panache and humour.

[Back to contents](#)

A reporter was collecting stories on identities and characters
of the West Coast.

He stopped in the pub in one sleepy town and asked the bar-
man who was the oldest resident in the district.

“Oh dear,” replied the barman. “We don't have one anymore.
We lost him when he died last week.”

Wedding of Ben Davin and Anna Gibb

by Rosaleen Davin



On the 18th of March 2017 Ben Davin, son of Rosaleen & Tim Davin of Our Lady of Fatima church in Tawa, and Anna Gibb, daughter of Katherine & Neil Gibb of Cambridge, were married by Father Mark Field in St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Tauranga. Family and friends from NZ, Australia and the UK gathered to celebrate at L’Orangerie, Tauranga. The couple are building a home in Paremata.

Pictured are: baby Gini with parents Dominic and Amelia Davin, Hayden and Sarah Saunders, Anna and Ben, Rosaleen and Tim Davin, Danielle and Matthew Davin

[Back to contents](#)

Adam had just proposed to Eve in the Garden of Eden. Having not received an immediate reply, Adam queried impatiently “What’s the matter Eve? Why don’t you give me an answer? Is there someone else?” “That’s what I’d like to know”, said Eve looking searchingly round the garden.

Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

Deaths

Brian Alphonsus Martin	24 March 2017
Ian Keith Stuart	16 April 2017
Raphael Lafaele Smith	24 April 2017
Robert Anthony Costa	30 May 2017
John David Scott	2 June 2017
Theodora Maria Gerarda Pronk	3 June 2017
James Edward Comerford	13 June 2017
Verna Veronica Odell	21 June 2017
Dorothy Mary Knipping	22 June 2017

Baptisms

Name of child	Date	Parents
Neve Gemma Fouhy	26 March 17	Richard & Amie Fouhy
Lucas Mann	3 April 17	Alicia Mann
Noah-Sea Brandley Nui	3 April 17	Michael & Sarah Nui
Kyani Sinclair Russell-Lia	3 April 17	Tamasone Lia & Nikki Russell
Emilia Harper Jeffrey-Lewis	3 April 17	Mark Lewis & Mikaela Jeffrey
Annibelle Cate Jeffrey-Lewis	3 April 17	Mark Lewis & Mikaela Jeffrey
Isaac Fenton Burke	8 April 17	Karl & Carole Burke
Anthony Aukusitino Lotuoletaeaofou Tafa	7 May 17	Senituli & Esther Tafa
Joan Ana Tangimetuavaine Sharland	21 May 17	Cory & Catherine Sharland
Zoe Ruth Charlotte Prescott Siave	2 July 17	Daniel & Rebekah Siave
Erin Miquela Seno Cimafranca	15 July 17	Efren & Ma Adesa Cimafranca

[Back to contents](#)

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

Telesia Alaimoana, Jane Bolton, John Lafaele, Ray Lindsay, Rupi Mapusua, and
Andrew Oliver.

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

[Back to contents](#)

**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

Practice The Wound of Love

Winter can be a tough season and sometimes we can feel the sense of loss all the more keenly during this time of shorter days and longer nights. How can we, at Ninness Funeral Home, give hope and consolation? Perhaps the following reflection, written by a deeply spiritual person, from the very familiar Beatitudes, "*Blessed are those who mourn*", may help you. We hope that it offers a beautiful perspective for you.

The second Beatitude, blessed are those who mourn is talking about vulnerability and flow. When we mourn (not to be confused with complaining or self-pity) we are in a state of freefall, our heart reaching out toward what we have seemingly lost but cannot help loving anyway. To mourn is by definition to live between the realms. "*Practice the wound of love*" writes Ken Wilber in *Grace and Grit*, his gripping personal story of loss and transformation. "*Real love hurts; real love makes you totally vulnerable and open; real love will take you far beyond yourself; and therefore real love will devastate you.*"

Mourning is indeed a brutal form of emptiness. But in this emptiness, if we can remain open, we discover that a mysterious "something" does indeed reach back to comfort us; the tendrils of our grief trailing out into the unknown become intertwined in a greater love that holds all things together. To mourn is to touch directly the substance of divine compassion. And just as ice must melt before it can begin to flow, we, too, must become liquid before we can flow into the larger mind. Tears have been a classic spiritual way of doing this.

For further helpful information, have a look at the Ninness Funeral Home website: 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 - dates for the coming months

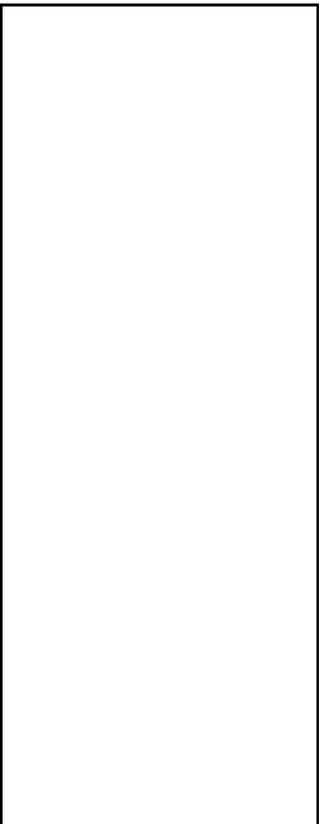
- Wednesday – 30 August
- Wednesday – 27 September
- Wednesday – 25 October

[Back to contents](#)





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