



Stories of HOPE

Summer 2019

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



Stephani, Jethro and Ana

*Prize winners from St Francis Xavier School
in the annual regional Catholic Schools
Scripture Reading competition*

Notice to contributors

We always like to hear about your group or parish organization. We generally prefer content relating to specific events and persons - as a guideline, 500 words will fill one page of this magazine. Short newsy articles, anecdotes, reflections, poems, 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: Will be advertised in the weekly newsletter early 2020

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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From the Editor

by Jane Langham



“With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”

Colossians 3:15-16

The gift of Jesus as ‘Emmanuel, God with us’ was given at the first Christmas.



Especially in our preparations and during the Christmas season, how often do we thank God for this ongoing daily gift?

We have all heard the Gospel account of the ten people with leprosy who were healed by Jesus whilst on their way to show themselves to the priest, but only one Samaritan man came back to thank Jesus. We tend to think that we would never do such a thing, that of course we would thank God for such a blessing and miracle. I think perhaps we need to look a bit more closely at ourselves.

You may have heard the joke about the man hoping for a parking space when going to a busy car park. He was praying to St Joseph to find him a park, when, just as he entered the parking building, someone was pulling out to leave. *“It’s ok Joseph, I’ve found one for myself.”* Is this the same sort of situation as happened recently when Fr Rico didn’t arrive for a weekday morning mass? The approximately fifty people present eventually participated in a liturgy of the Word and prayed that Fr Rico would be safe and that any situation he was dealing with would have God’s Spirit there to help all concerned.

When we learned next day that he had slept in – a much needed rest after returning from the Philippines with a touch of ‘flu – did we all offer thanks to God that all was well? Or did we think that our prayer was not needed after all?

Perhaps this may help us reflect on the 'miracle' story of healing told by Marie on p.17, or the intervention of God in Matthew's life on p.12. Fr John reminds us that *all* of our everyday life is a gift from God, with much to be grateful for. (p.8)

There are inspiring stories of personal faith journeys (pages.12, 18, 22) and much more besides! Following reader requests and changes to mass times in some of the other local parishes, we now include weekend mass times for Our Lady of Hope and adjoining parishes (p.32)

Beginning in this edition, we are starting a new regular feature from Ian Munro p.6 These reflections will be taken from Ian's many years' experience as a counsellor and very many more years writing parenting columns. I hope you will find them as inspiring as I do!

Enjoy and share with others and be open with gratitude to all that God offers you!



Remember that you can access *Stories of Hope* online

The parish web site: ourladyofhope.org.nz under the 'News' tab, has the latest magazine edition and a complete archive of all past editions, as well as the weekly newsletter. This is a good way to share the magazine with family away from Tawa.

If you now live 'out of area' or for any other reason no longer wish to receive a printed copy of *Stories of Hope* you can request to receive email notification when a new edition is published, with a link to it on the web site. Any parishioner can request to receive email link as well as printed copy. Just contact: ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz or 232 5611

Please notify the parish office if you wish to be removed from the printed copy mailing list because you are moving away or for any other reason.

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Christmas Messages

by Ian Munro



It's that hustle, bustle time of year again. Shops have their decorations up, the mall music changes to 'Christmassy' songs and the demand to keep opening our wallets intensifies, while the time left to do it decreases.

As parents, this might be the moment to reflect on our response to these pressures and to the messages about Christmas our youngsters are getting. Maybe the time has come to reassess how the Christmas celebration can be made more meaningful for the family.

The obvious starting point is the wonder of it.



The obvious starting point is the wonder of it. The birth "*in the city of David of a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord*". An advent wreath in a prominent place with its five candles provides an opportunity to discuss the message of hope, peace, joy and love and to talk about how its

circular nature represents God's infinite love and the evergreen leaves represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus.

However, that doesn't easily mesh with all the other, largely commercial, 'Christmas messages' out there. Explaining the origins of the Father Christmas/Santa Claus tradition that has evolved from the legendary work of Saint Nicholas of Myra can help here. And taking that further, to consider ways in which the family can share the love, the hope, the goodwill and the

"good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people" that underpin the Christmas festival.



"All the people" is significant. This season of good cheer and goodwill, which after

all is about a baby born in trying times, is an appropriate time for us also to think about the plight of a sizeable group of young New Zealanders and their struggling parents – many with no home of their own, high rents, the bare minimum of food for the table, bills waiting to be paid.

It's a time when we can help our youngsters develop an awareness of others who might be more in need than they are, and of people who have no family and are alone at this time of the year. It's a time to acknowledge and express gratitude for what they have.

This opens the way for actions such as:

- * inviting someone from outside the family to dinner;
- * placing gifts under a community Christmas tree;
- * contributing to food banks;
- * making small, personal gifts for neighbours living on their own;
- * assisting with community lunches or lunch deliveries on Christmas Day;
- * contributing towards the needs of a local charity or an overseas village.

It's also an opportunity to consider ways in which we can make the time more peaceful, more reverent and more loving for the family and for others. As a family there may have to be some hard decisions taken to achieve this. This could mean a smaller celebration or a shared lunch after delivering or serving Christmas lunch to others; it could mean only one present for each youngster and none for the adults; it could mean a series of personal phone calls in the week before Christmas instead of an impersonal Christmas card or e-message; and so on.

Our love, our time, our examples of goodwill, our reverence, perhaps some forgiveness where necessary, and an understanding of God's gift of Jesus, the gift of eternal life, are the best presents we can give any child.

These are the things that Christmas is really about and they will be the memories our youngsters will treasure in later years when all the toys and chocolate and wrapping paper are long gone.



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Gratitude

by Fr John van der Kaa AA



My parents got married in November 1934 and I was born 5 years later. They were ever so grateful to God for their first born, after lighting candles and praying for so long. But then there were another seven children... One little one died. It was an accident. He was only 18 months old. The white coffin was placed on two chairs in the front room and I remember telling my younger brother, Rudi: *André is asleep*.

Mum and Dad had moved in with my mum's parents. It was a three-bedroom house. When the girls arrived a fourth bedroom was created. At



Maternal grandparents, girl from next door with MY teddy bear and me. Granddad always wore a hat.

one stage the five boys were all in the one room. There were no dehumidifiers in those days and condensation came dripping down the window.

When I went to the Junior Seminary, my oldest brother told me later, they were glad for having a bit more space and no more wheezing from the asthma patient. There was gratitude!

The first years of my life were war years. As a family we were grateful for many things. My dad was able to keep his job at the factory where they produced woollen materials. Many workers were sent to factories in Germany. Mum was a good cook and handy with the Singer sewing machine. We had a vegetable garden, dug

over and manured by a friend of my grandfather. In Spring we had spinach and common purslane, followed by the early potatoes, lots of beans and leeks and, as the frost came around, it was time to pick the Brussels sprouts. There were apple trees and we had berries. We had chickens, pigeons and rabbits and mum used to lure the hedgehogs with a saucer of milk. We had real butter and good food, it was after the war when we had to get used to margarine.

By the end of the war, the Germans had a trainload full of ammunition at our railway station. It was reported to the Allies and the local community knew what was about to happen. I remember how the whole family 'sheltered' in the garden and watched as the ammunition train was bombarded by the Allies and we saw what looked like an atomic bomb exploding. The village was grateful for surviving this event without any casualties. A whole street of houses, however, was flattened in the explosions.

We were 'rich' with the love and care of our parents

Compared to today's standards maybe we were poor, but as children we did not know the word. We were "rich" with the love and care of our parents, we were always well dressed. At the age of seven I got my first bicycle and that bicycle was recycled several times to be passed on to my younger brothers. There were always presents for all of us at the feast of St Nicholas. We had the Franciscan nuns at pre-school and Brothers CMM at primary. Going to school was a blessing and enjoyable.



Our village was a tourist destination for people in the North of the country. They would come in bus loads to see the 30 small lakes in the woods South of the

village. There were hotels and holiday camps. Some lakes were full of fish. In winter you could go ice skating and playing with your sleigh. I remember going down a small hill on the sleigh and heading straight for a tree. Thank God I dived sideways.

The woods had many attractions for us kids. There were the pine cones to collect for fire-starters, yellow edible mushrooms, and wild berries, sweet chestnuts and beech nuts. Lots of things to be grateful for. Traffic was low: the street our playground. Quite often we played outside till sunset, when mum would call us in.

Behind the house there was a whole train of small sheds, for the bicycles, the chickens and the pigeons. Then came the compost heap where all the leftovers ended up. Between the bicycle shed and the chicken coop, we boys had our own 'sheltered' sandpit. My brother Rudi and I spent a lot of time there building towns and bridges.

Going to school was a blessing and enjoyable.

At the age of twelve I went to the Junior Seminary. I ended up in a whole new world, where everything was different: the food, the bedroom (80 beds in one large dormitory), classrooms, study books etc. After 5 days I had made up my mind - I was really homesick and I had packed my bag, enough money in my pocket for the train ticket ready to go home. But then there was this priest walking up and down through the corridor. I could not escape. Looking back, I should be grateful he was there to stop me.

The Seminary was only 10 km away from our village and I was lucky to get a visit from my family every fortnight. They would pick up my washing and return cleanly washed and ironed clothes and always something nice to eat. One of the Brothers in the kitchen also came from my village and in summer Br Damian was always ready to share some ice-cream with them.

By the end of 6 years we had to sit our final exams, the written exams in a city close by, the oral exams in a College 100 km away. I wasn't a top student, so I was extremely grateful that I passed.

At this point in time some of our classmates left and others (boys who

wanted to become Brothers) joined us to go to the Novitiate. We were excited. Brother Stanislaus, the tailor, had made our habits and then came the big day of being clothed with the Assumptionist habit. I wasn't used to the long robes and running up the staircase I tripped. The entire year was a time of prayer, lots of fun, singing together, long walks, and soccer. I still remember that time with gratitude.

Then came 7 years in a country village called Bergeyk. The time for family visiting us was over. But at some stage we managed to get bicycles and once a month we would have the whole Thursday off. My classmate and I would get on our bikes and race 36 km to meet our parents, enjoy home and race back to the monastery to meet the 6 pm deadline. A few times we missed! Other young 'monks' hitchhiked their way through the country. Dressed in our holy habits it was easy to get a ride and the next day we would share our stories.

All through the years of the Senior Seminary, Vatican II was continuing and our 'professors', as we called them, tried hard to keep us up to date with the latest developments of the Council. John XXIII and Paul VI were our Popes. A new chapter in the history of the Church. The changes in the Liturgy were the most noticeable. From Latin to the vernacular, from lots of Masses (by the 15 priests) to concelebration, from fasting from midnight to one hour before Mass, Communion under both kinds.

Finally..... the time for our Ordination came. Bishop Bekkers put his hands over our heads. Nine of us became priests and we were keen to move out of our monasterial confinement into the wide world, to serve, to preach, to bless. Yes, truly a time of lots of graces, a time to be grateful for.

we were keen ... to serve, to preach, to bless

Now, 54 years later, of our original group of nine, four of us are still Assumptionists, alive and well, although one has ended up in a hospital wing for dementia. I am grateful for my time at Bishop Viard College, Holy Family Parish, Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Our Lady of Hope Parish. And I am enjoying my retirement. I am thankful to God and to all the people who have supported me. **Deo gratias!**

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Are you a missionary disciple?

How are you helping to foster vocations?

by *Matthew White*

Pope Francis declared October 2019 to be an **extraordinary month of mission**



throughout the world. Not one Sunday of the month, as it usually is. The call is for all of us as baptised, not only the priests and religious, to go out and share the Good News. This is, of course, the Church's mission as Jesus commanded us to when he said in Matt 28:19 to "*Go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*"

What is a missionary disciple?

Someone who knows the faith, lives the faith and shares the faith.

A faith that is alive should be passed on so that others can be transformed.

So how are you doing in your role as a missionary disciple with the people you meet every day, in your workplace, at school, at home or among your friends?

My faith journey brought me to Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland at the start of this year. It's taken me a long time to get here but I am here!!! There have been many good people who have supported me with prayer and encouragement these last twelve months as I have taken this step. I am very grateful to all of them. My week-long pastoral placement in Our Lady of Hope parish during Holy Week was very blessed.

The seminary formation programme, which involves four dimensions: human, spiritual, pastoral and academic, is nearing completion for the year. It is comprehensive, moulding and shaping men on the long journey to becoming missionary disciples serving the people of God as priests. But we have a problem with few taking up the call to priesthood. No news there you say. But what are you doing about it?

In the seminary there are, in total, only eleven men training to be priests from year 1 to year 7. Of these, seven are from Vietnam. There are two on parish placement for their fifth year. I don't believe the Lord is not calling anyone in New Zealand to be a priest. Rather, those he is calling are not listening or don't want to act, (as happened in my case).

Maybe others around haven't promoted the idea to sow the seed of vocation.



Matthew White - seminarian

We are a sacramental Church. We need the Eucharist to spiritually feed us and nourish us on our journey. We need the sacrament of Reconciliation to allow God to dispense his mercy to us. Only priests standing in as Christ can do this.

So what can you do as missionary disciples to encourage vocations? Actually, quite a lot!!! First and foremost, PRAY. Prayer is the most powerful tool we have at our disposal. Second, ENCOURAGE.

“Have you ever thought about trying the priesthood?” is a question you might like to ask. People affirming my call certainly helped me. Third: Make it as an option when you talk about possible future paths with your children. Fourth: Encourage opportunities where vocations are talked about. I recently attended a Vocations Expo. This was a morning organised by young people at St Josephs in Grey Lynn parish. This was a great success which the Lord blessed. Could the young people of Our Lady of Hope parish do something similar in Wellington? How awesome that would be!

One powerful influence on my journey to becoming a missionary disciple, which led me to the seminary this year, was the nine months I spent at the **Catholic Discipleship College in Auckland**.

For young people who want to go deeper and explore their faith I highly encourage you to give God nine months of your life. You will not regret it and you will come back faith-filled and transformed. The next intake of students is in February 2020. Do encourage a young person to go on this life-changing faith journey.

For more information: cdc.ac.nz/

Finally let me conclude by writing about the kerygma. This is what Pope Francis calls *“the central explosive proclamation of the faith”*. Many Catholics around us, in our homes and parishes don’t know Jesus.

People need to know him to become his disciples.

The ‘kerygma’ is the gospel message of Jesus. Jesus Christ loves you. He gave his life to save you. He’s living at your side to enlighten, strengthen and free you.

As missionary disciples our challenge is to form Catholics and others to know this good news.

God’s blessings on you and your family.

Editor’s Note: Matthew has a long association with our parish, from leading Children’s Liturgy in the 1990’s to regular attendance at Wednesday Adoration in more recent years.

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Parish Assets Review *from Parish Pastoral and Finance Committees*

Below is a summary of the report prepared by Pastoral and Finance Committees. The full report is on the parish website: ourladyofhope.org.nz or hardcopy on the church notice board, or printed, on request, from the parish office.

On 13 February 2019, Cardinal John Dew wrote to all parishes in the Archdiocese, directing them to begin a review of their churches and presbyteries. The issues outlined by Cardinal John ... include earthquake resilience, the reduced number of priests, parish amalgamations and the new priorities to address following the 2017

Archdiocesan Synod. **A clear expectation was set that there should be one church per parish and that proposals should recognise Mass attendances, demographic trends, and present and future income and expenditure patterns.**

We outline two proposals for consideration in response to Cardinal John's expectation that *"for most, if not all, parishes with more than one church, this will mean reducing the number of churches in the parish."*

It should be noted that there is no clear consensus within the parish to support either proposal, but the Parish Pastoral Team consider that these are the best options to meet the review's stated aims.

Options considered: These were considered by the asset review group and consulted on within the Parish:

Option 1: Close Titahi Bay Presbytery by 2021 Close the presbytery and sell the building and land. The value is approximately \$600,000;

Relocate the priests to the Tawa presbytery. This would first necessitate upgrading the Tawa presbytery to meet fire regulations for long-term accommodation. The cost and feasibility of this upgrade is not yet known;

This option could proceed regardless of whether any churches in the Parish are closed and would have minimal impact on parishioners.

Option 2: Close St Pius X Church by 2024



Close the church and sell the building and land. The value is approximately \$900,000 but resale value is not known;

Annual building maintenance costs are approximately \$4,000. Earthquake strengthening has been completed. There is not a pressing financial or priest staffing issue to require the closure of the church at the present time, however it could be a long-term option;

This would represent a very significant upheaval for Titahi Bay parishioners, most of whom are elderly. Although Our Lady of Fatima Church in Tawa is only 7km away, there is not a natural flow of traffic and very poor public transport on weekends;

Parish consultation did not provide consensus to support this option

Option 3: Close both churches and amalgamate with other parishes in the Porirua Pastoral Area ... to have a combined Church, Parish Centre and Parish Hall.

Parish consultation gave no clear consensus for this type of option, so we do not support it and have not put it forward as a proposal at this time.

Parish Schools

Both parish schools are relatively small and have remained reasonably static over the last few years, with a slight decline. The parish priests and school principals are proactive in maintaining the link between the parish and schools. Both St Pius X and St Francis Xavier Schools are integrated and were not considered as part of this asset review, apart from the ability of the parish to use the school halls.

Our people -Mass counts

The combined weekly mass counts for St Pius X and Our Lady of Fatima churches has remained fairly steady at around 700 over the last 18 years. Over the last 10 years, weekly mass counts at St Pius X have averaged 150 and at 550 at Our Lady of Fatima. Many parishioners move freely between the churches to attend mass at their preferred time. However, the demographic of parishioners who live in Titahi Bay is overwhelmingly older and less mobile.

Population forecasts

Population growth is expected to continue in the northern suburbs with new green-field development being focused on the northern suburbs of up to 20%

Our priests

Our Lady of Hope Parish currently has two priests, provided from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines, under a contract between Archbishop Rolando Tria Tirona, OCD and Cardinal John Dew.... Under this agreement, it is expected that Our Lady of Hope Parish will have two resident priests for the next 8 years.

Parish finances

The parish requires \$55,000 annually to sustain a prudent 10-year maintenance plan and insurance costs for parish property.

The annual operating costs for the parish (including annual maintenance, insurance and Archdiocesan levies) are approximately \$185,000.

The parish needs approximately \$200,000 from parishioners each year so it does not run at a loss.

Looking forward - Number of churches

Our Lady of Hope Parish currently has two churches, with a Saturday vigil mass held weekly at St Pius X church and two Sunday morning masses at Our Lady of Fatima.

Even with projected population growth in the parish out to 2043, offering 3 masses per weekend at one church would meet the needs of the parish. However, the geography of the parish does not easily lend itself to having only one church. Although the two churches are only 7km apart, there is not a natural flow of traffic between them and very limited public transport on Sundays.

Exploratory steps will be taken to further examine costs and implications of both possible options before any decisions are made.

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Advent and Christmas Timetable

Sunday 1 December - 7pm

Combined Churches Advent Service at Our Lady of Fatima Church,

15-23 December - 7pm Filipino 9 Day Novena at Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa

Friday 20 December - 10am-12:30pm Christmas Fun Morning

for children aged 4+ at Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa - see page 32

Saturday 21 Dec. 5:30pm (T. Bay) & Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 (Tawa) Mass as usual

Tuesday 24 December - 7pm Family Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa

- 11:30 pm Carols, followed by Midnight Mass at Our Lady of Fatima

Wednesday 25 December

- 9.30am Christmas Day Mass at St Pius X Church, Titahi Bay

- 10.30am Christmas Day Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa

- 9:30 am Combined Churches of Tawa Community Service,
held in Tawa College Hall

This is a very family-friendly service, and an especially good way for inter-denominational families to worship together. It has run for over 50 years!

Tuesday 31 December - 12 midnight Midnight Mass at Our Lady of Fatima

Wednesday 1 January - 9am New Year's Day Mass at St Pius X Church, T. Bay

Note: there will be no 9am mass in Tawa on 1 January

My Gratitude to God

by Marie Munro



*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

(Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV))

Praise the Lord for all the faithful servants who, though their loving prayer, fashioned a new 'womb' for me where Our Dear Lord has knit me into wholeness!

At the time of writing, it's five weeks since I tried to get out of bed to go to Mass one Sunday morning. Instead of standing up, I slumped into a heap beside the bed. This occurrence triggered my journey of acceptance, gratitude and recovery from the effects of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).



GBS is a rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the myelin sheath covering the nerve fibres. This progressively paralyses the body as damage to the nerves blocks messages between the brain and affected parts. In my case, the Syndrome progressed very rapidly, so, within 12 hours, I was paralyzed from the neck down. However, as I was diagnosed and received appropriate treatment very quickly, the process was reversed equally swiftly. The infusions

of immunoglobulin, (a blood product imported from Australia), wrapped my nerves in a protective barrier, which provided protection until my immune system returned to its normal job.

For six days, my body, with the exceptions of my head, neck and voice, was paralyzed. I am so grateful for this unique and entirely beautiful experience - being totally immersed in 'a soup of the love, caring and prayer of people from all over the world' is incredibly humbling and healing.

Recovering from the effects of GBS also provided a unique opportunity to revisit the stages of my physical development from baby to toddler, to fully able child. Through this time, I was able to taste the joys of growing up in a huge and amazingly loving family. **My heart is bursting and singing with gratitude.**

Gratitude for:

- those who set aside a specific time or snatched a moment to think of me, I can attest that your prayers were heard. Throughout this interesting experience, I felt absolutely no confusion, anxiety or fear. Instead, I was enveloped in a beautiful peace and instinctively knew that Our Lord had gone ahead of me and held me in His hands. The power of your prayers kept me positive and up-beat, so I bounced back quickly, baffling my doctors, nurses, physios and occupational therapists.
- the opportunity to share, openly, my faith, which allowed others to share their faiths. How can you not feel grateful when your nurse offers to pray with you?
- the opportunity to be still and at peace within myself in my weakness.
- the wisdom to surrender to my situation.
- the opportunity to relinquish my independent personality and unconditionally accept the love, care and prayers of people who genuinely care for and about me.
- the medical researchers who discovered that immunoglobulin can be used to protect the nerves and lessen the damage caused by this incurable disease.
- the more than 6,000 Australian blood donors who provided 1120mls of immunoglobulin to be used to treat me - I now believe I have as much Australian blood in my veins as my Aussie-born grandchildren.
- the tenderly kind nursing staff who attended to my numerous needs with cheerfulness and patience.
- the meal-delivery team whose cheeky cheerfulness lifted my spirits and the Hospital Chaplains who brought me communion every day.
- my kind friends who took time out of their busy lives to visit me in hospital, especially those who watched me sleep or visited an empty bed when I was away with the physios and occupational therapists retraining my body for normal life.

From time to time, awful things happen, often without warning. **What I've taken from this experience is that, even when you have absolutely no control of your life, you can still control your choice of attitude.**

I thank God and offer praise and thanksgiving for His faithful servants - my extended family, my beautiful prayer family and the wonderful people who've chosen to care for patients recovering from illness or injury. I believe the gifts of your love, time, skills and prayer have been providing the perfect environment for Our Lord to knit me into an enduring wholeness, as He did in my mother's womb. It is also the place where He is teaching me tolerance, patience and a new, child-like appreciation for all His children and amazing creation.

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The Silent Prayer

by Patrick Horan

They stand when the organ starts.

*She short and stout, dressed in her Marks and Sparks Sunday best;
around her neck a delicate chain that holds a gold cross; on her third
finger a ring so deep in the flesh that it will never come off.*

He a tall, thin, gangly youth in designer jeans, a red, Theatre of Dreams,
Manchester United playing shirt and on his wrist a beaten copper bracelet.

She sings with warmth and pleasure;

he glances at her hymnbook without interest, not a facial muscle moving,
though knowing the words and tune.

*She turns to him and smiles,
pleased that he is there;*

he returns a look of boredom,
that “why are you forcing me to be here” expression
that teenage boys universally reserve for mothers on such occasions.

Throughout the service she participates with conviction,

he merely stands or sits with the congregation
without being part of the gathering that contains few of his generation.

*She goes up for communion and receives devoutly,
as he sits disinterested, looking around.*

The service ends;

she lightly touches his arm to leave.

As they walk from the church
he starts to come alive as a flower welcomes the sun emerging from a cloud

*Her eyes follow him as he leaves.
She smiles again,
pleased that he had been there;*

and silently prays that it was not for the last time.

An Interview with Judy Bocacao

by Jane Langham

Judy, thank you for agreeing to share some of your faith and family story with us. Can you begin by telling us a bit about your background and where you are from?

Our family came from the Philippines. Eli and I have four children, Marjel, Mariel, Johniel, and Jamuel, all born in Manila. I worked in a Virology lab at



RITM in the Philippines. Judy with husband Eli and three of their four children and have been working in the same field here in New Zealand since 2003. I am fortunate to have been appointed as a Scientist at ESR.

What brought you and your family to New Zealand and Tawa?

Did you experience ‘God’s hand’ in that move in any way?

Prior to coming to NZ, I had been trying to apply for any overseas job in different countries. In fact, I had submitted and paid for my application to an immigration consultant as a skilled worker to Australia, when I got a totally unexpected email for a vacant position from my current and only employer here. The interview and job offer were finalized within days but the move to NZ was not as swift as the winds of Wellington. There were hurdles along the way, including a suspicious lung scarring that needed clearance from a NZ doctor, and other immigration issues. From going to church only on Sundays, I went daily and prayed before the Blessed Sacrament for the approval of my working visa. It was then that I made a promise that I will serve the Lord in my own little ways as a token of gratitude for my visa being approved. My prayer life then was not deeply rooted, even when I attended the Born-Again fundamentalist services for a few years and later, with the Youth Encounter in our Parish, which became a turning point in my life. But those daily prayers had probably started my understanding of what is God’s mission for me here in Tawa. I did not choose to live in Tawa, but I am grateful that my employer picked Tawa for my initial accommodation. Included in my first queries to my HR advisor who picked me up at the airport was “Where is the nearest Catholic church?”. Perhaps it was because I wanted to meet fellow Filipinos, but mostly to

thank God for finally bringing me to NZ. Once at Our Lady of Fatima church, I knew I belonged and became a regular parishioner.

Are there any other special moments in your life that you have been aware of God's intervention or support?

Last year, I was very close to applying for a position at the World Health Organization in Geneva, when just before the deadline to submit my expression of interest, my husband was diagnosed with a possible prostate cancer. Prior to the release of the biopsy report and cancer confirmation, I decided not to apply as I deemed we have to fight this together. This might also be God's way of not allowing me to turn my back on my mission here in Tawa. The big C was confirmed and we faced many specialists, underwent several procedures, and now, the ongoing daily radiation therapy. But all of these have just made our bond stronger and our faith deeper. We had prayed for the intercession of Our Lady of Penafrancia, Patroness of Bicol Region, for his complete healing and we are completely humbled and awed as during these hard times, numerous blessings have also come our way.

What would you like to share about your current involvement in parish and community activities?

Part of my gratitude is giving back. Longing for music during 10:30 masses prompted me to volunteer to form the children's choir when my whole family eventually became complete here. The kids choir began to sing in 2007 and has since evolved into the Tawa Filipino choir. Our family is also involved with the Wellington Filipino Chaplaincy choir.

I became one of the Tawa/Porirua Filipino Community coordinators (for almost 10 years until last year) and had been actively involved in outreach programmes, especially for new migrants. We have been helping the growing number of Filipino trades staff from different ongoing constructions in Wellington by providing them with pastoral care, information on NZ's laws and regulations through the help of lawyers from Whitireia Community Law Centre or simply just letting them know that there is a community that they can rely on here in Tawa. We also participated in community activities like the Santa Parade to show that the Filipinos are one with the community. I also try to share my time and service to the community by helping at the *Kai Kitchen* community service on Fridays at the Linden Social Centre.

(see article by Marie Nicol over page)

Is there anything you have on a 'wish list' that you hope for in the future?

First and foremost on my list is for my kids to succeed in their chosen careers: Marjel to finish her Medical course and become a doctor especially for the needy, Mariel to complete her Law degree to bring justice where it is denied, and Johniel

and Jamuel pursuing computer engineering courses to contribute in the advancement of artificial intelligence and data science.

I have been wanting to hang up my lab coat and pursue public health in the front lines to help the poor, alleviate inequity and inequality and have been dreaming of establishing a foundation to reach out to marginalized people.

I believe, as Mother Teresa once said, ***“if you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one”***. One at a time for me, for now.

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Linden Social Centre Kai Kitchen

by Marie Nicol

A great community initiative known as the **Linden Kai Kitchen** has been providing a free weekly lunch to Linden/Tawa residents and neighbours since July. It is held each Friday at the Linden Social Centre from 12.30pm.

I have enjoyed being part of a fantastic team of volunteers who help with either food preparations, serving up the meal, or cleaning up dishes afterwards. There are also others who set up and clear away all the tables and chairs.

Volunteers collect donations of food from Pak’N’Save Porirua, Kai Bosh Food Rescue in Wellington and Kiwi Community Assistance (KCA) in Grenada North. Sarah Searancke Catering, who are located in Linden, also donate to us on a regular basis an abundance of delicious catering-sized dishes that range from meats, salads and, my favourite from last week, three giant-sized slabs of apple cinnamon slice!

The kitchen is a hive of activity with at least 6 to 8 volunteers peeling, chopping, slicing and dicing vegetables for the soup and other dishes. These volunteers vary

from week to week, as people give their time as and when it suits them. I’m so grateful to have met so many lovely people from all over the world, as well as many fellow-parishioners from Our Lady of Hope, whom I knew by sight and now know by name, as we serve those in need in



Regular volunteers from Our Lady of Hope: Jane Langham, Ann Hagan, Judy Bocacao, Marie Nicol, Paul Langham

our community. Those who have attended as guests are now wanting to volunteer to help with preparations and cleaning up afterwards, which is so lovely to see and adds a great atmosphere to our gathering together. We usually have around 30 to 40 (sometimes more) come along, a lot of whom live alone and really enjoy the company of others as much as the food.

Very little goes to waste, with those in attendance encouraged to bring their own containers to take home remaining food for later. I take any excess bread and buns for St Vincent de Paul food parcels that our Tawa Conference then distribute. We also compost or feed to chickens any food preparation peelings or scraps left over.

During the last school holidays, my daughter, Geena, and her Tawa College friends, who also live in Linden, volunteered their time and talents and together we ran the kitchen on the 11th of October. Geena and I had to collect the food from Kai Bosh



Food prepared by Geena and friends

and then go through the generous donations we had received to see what ingredients we had to work with. Geena likened it to the Master Chef Mystery Box Challenge, as we had to make up our menu. We were so fortunate to receive a couple of banana boxes full of sauces and flavourings, so had

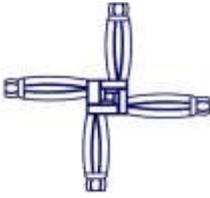
great fun deciding what to put with what. Our menu consisted of carrot and parsnip soup served with bread rolls, capsicum, feta and spinach wraps, roasted potatoes, cauliflower and baby carrots, pizzas topped with feta, pesto and salami and mince pies. For dessert, the girls made banana-blueberry ice-cream and meringues. What a feast!!

It was fantastic to have so many of our young people want to join in and give back to their community in this way and everyone in attendance appreciated the efforts put in by all volunteers. This shows that together, regardless of age, we can do great things.

I encourage you to come and have a free lunch and meet others in our Linden/Tawa community at the Linden Social Centre, Linden Avenue each Friday from 12:30pm.

If you would like to volunteer, weekly, two-weekly, monthly or just when you can, we start our preparations at 10am, get ready for serving from 12 noon, washing up from 12:30pm. Setting up tables and chairs from 11am, clear away after lunch.

St Francis Xavier School -by Joan Woods (Principal)



Term 3 & 4 News

I was very pleased to return to school at the start of Term 3. It was wonderful to hear Mrs Goodin enjoyed her time in my absence and was extremely complimentary about the school community we have here at St Francis Xavier School.



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

A highlight for Term 3 was celebrating our cultures where we had an amazing week at school. Our **Cultural Week** started with a performance by our school Pasifika Club. We also had a visit from the Japanese Cultural Centre. Many family members came into school to share their culture. Children also had the opportunity to try different foods from other countries. The week ended with a parade where children were asked to wear either cultural clothes or to wear colours that represented their country.

There have been lots of different learning experiences during Terms 3 and 4. Rimu, Pohutukawa and Ngaio, Totara and Kauri classes visiting Te Papa as part of their **Explorers Unit**. The children worked with education staff at Te Papa looking at Pacific explorers investigating migration, navigation and voyaging vessels. Nikau Class studied dinosaurs and as part of their mathematics learning they used a grid to draw a 12 metre tyrannosaurus rex in the school playground. Pohutukawa, Rimu and Ngaio classes also visited Pataka to learn about the waka that Kupe and other Polynesian explorers used.

Our junior classes had a visit from the Tawa Fire Brigade where the children took part in the **Firewise** programme. The whole school took part in the **National Shake Out Day** where children had the opportunity to practise the Drop, Cover and Hold drill. Alongside all of these learning experiences our core learning in reading, writing and mathematics have continued to be the key parts of our programmes.

Sport has continued to be important in our learning programme. Children have been involved in **squash, Rippa Rugby, Project Energize, tennis, athletics** and St Francis Xavier School had two **netball** teams play in the Saturday netball competition.



Kowhai, Tawa and Nikau class had **swimming lessons** at Tawa School Pool.

In August we celebrated the **Feast of the Assumption**. A group of children were confirmed at Our Lady of Fatima church in September and we recently had a **school/parish Mass** where two students were baptised during the Mass. Eleven children from St Francis Xavier will make their First Communion on Sunday 24 November.



St Francis Xavier are very fortunate to have a piano donated to the school by the family of Georgina Boyle. It was wonderful to have the piano to accompany the children's singing at our All Saints Day Mass held in the school hall. Our Year 5 & 6 students took part in a **Scripture Reading Competition** with other Catholic schools. Children could choose selected readings in either English, Māori or Samoan.

Our Year 6 student came first in the English section, our Year 5 student came second. We also came first in the Māori section. *(See cover photo)*

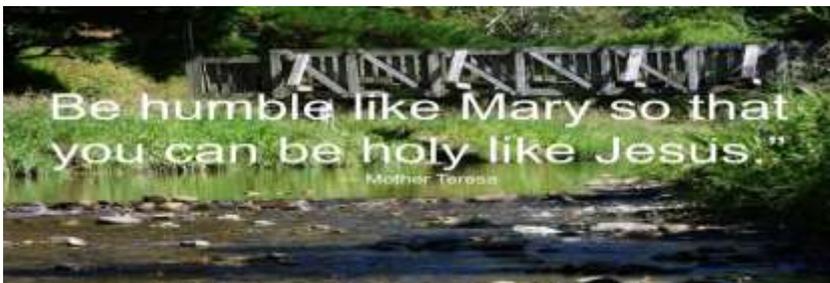
Our **Parents and Friends group** continue to fundraise for our new playground. Their recent fundraising event was a cardio dance workout where everyone's fitness levels were tested!!

Our **Young Vinnies** continue to work in the community with regular visits to Longview Rest Home in Tawa and the St Vincent de Paul shop in Porirua.

Our school motto is Strength and Gentleness Tu māia, tu aroha. The value we have been focussing on is Courage/Māia. This value links with Suzanne Aubert's life and the courage of so many of our families who left their homelands to settle in New Zealand and also all travellers who journeyed to our land.

We have a lot to look forward to towards the end of the year: our Year 6 Farewell Liturgy, St Francis Xavier Feast Day Mass and picnic, and the End of School Year Christmas liturgy where we formally farewell our Year 6 students. We will also be saying farewell to two longstanding teachers who are retiring, Marie Andrewartha and Linda Fernandez who have both been a great gift to our school.

Thank you to Father Rico and Father Marlon for their continued support with school Masses and Liturgies.



St Pius X School - by Christine MacDonald (Principal)



'WHANAU-ATUA-KURA-AROHĀ Together we Shine'



Term 3 2019

Term 4 has started well with lovely weather and happy children settling back into school. Looking back at Term 3, it's hard to believe we fitted in so many activities and fun events as well as lots of learning.

Religious Occasions We continue to have both staff, class and school-wide prayer throughout the term. We celebrated **Grandparents Day** on Friday 2 August



starting with Mass then grandparents and whānau enjoyed time in the classrooms with their grandchildren.



This was well supported by our community. We concluded with a yummy morning tea.

We joined the parish at Mass to remember the **Assumption of Mary** on 15 August.

St Pius X Feast Day was celebrated on 21 August starting with Mass then fun activities and treats afterwards. This is a special day for our school where we remembered our namesake, St Pius X.

On 8 September at Our Lady of Fatima church seven of our children celebrated the sacrament of **Confirmation** along with other children from St Francis Xavier School, Bishop Viard College and other children from the pastoral area. Thank you to Cardinal John and Father Rico and also to Lily Smith and Marie Prescott for all your help and guidance.

Three of our Year 5 and 6 students participated in the **Catholic Schools' Scripture competition** which was held at Our Lady of Kāpiti in August this year.

Events and Activities

Have you got your maths eyes on? This was an interesting question which we explored with Steve Shallard, our maths lead facilitator, in early August. Our

focus over the last year has been to raise student achievement in maths and this has meant our teachers students and their families have been learning new ways to teach and learn maths. The idea is for maths to be more meaningful, relevant, culturally responsive and rich in depth with some everyday problem solving as well.

Kapa Haka commenced in Term 3 under the guidance of Whaea Renata Marshall. She has a wide range of experience in leading both Kapa Haka and Pasifika fine arts. The children are really enjoying being part of this.

In terms 3 and 4 we have had a small group of year 6 students participate in **Te Ara Moana**, a local Titahi Bay activity that supports both water and self-confidence.

Four students are working with Amanda Joe, our **Vinnies** Co-ordinator, helping out in the community.

Linda from **Project Energize** continues to work with our school teaching and encouraging us to exercise more and eat healthier. **MoveMprove** returned again this year to teach gymnastics skills to our students.

Children enjoyed our **Space Disco** Friday 20 September. There were some amazing costumes and critters that came along. Our theme for the term was *What lies above us?* and classes were exploring space. The disco was a neat way to make the topic real. A big thanks to Beryl O'Neill for making this happen!

We visited the **Carter Observatory** in late August to learn all about the planets and constellations. We were lucky to get Te Pahi, the free bus, for this visit. The **Wellington Astronomical Society** came to school one evening in September with their telescopes and we were able to see clear views of Saturn, Jupiter and the Moon. Thanks to Mrs Jo Tebbs for her mahi in organising these events.



In the last week of school our whole school went to **Horouta Marae for noho** (sleepover). This was well supported by whānau and together with the school staff, our tamariki learned and played various Maori games, harakeke weaving, poi and rakau, preparation of kai, service to others. We also learned about being kaitiaki of our whenua (land). This was a really special time and I'm very grateful to everyone, especially Whaea Dee, who put this altogether.

What is the best way to finish the term? Having the **Wellington Lions** visit!!



The Wellington Lions Rugby team, together with the people from EPA Safer Homes, came to talk with our students about safety in the home. After that, the Lions players taught our children many fun and exciting games. They left us with great gifts of posters and flags. Thank you again, to the Wellington Lions, for your service to our school and to EPA Safer Homes for your messages about safety in the home.

Welcome and Farewell We welcomed Miss Philippa Matla, our new Deputy Principal and Special Needs Co-ordinator in the middle of term 3. She is the Tui class teacher (year 2 and 3 students). Philippa has a wide range of experience and knowledge about teaching, learning and leadership. Both Mrs Jo Tebbs, Kereru class teacher and Whaea Dee, our New Entrants teacher, have been made permanent staff of our school. We are in the process of finding a teacher for our year 5 and 6 class for 2020 as Mr Lawrence Hobbis left mid-term 3 and currently have Ms Abi Jordan relieving in that class for term 4.

We finished the term with **Loud Shirt day** to raise funds for the Hearing House and the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme. This was another amazingly full and productive term at St Pius X School and term 4 looks to be even more packed with great learning and exciting events too.

Enrolments for 2020

Is your child turning 5 in 2020 or do you know someone who is looking for a Catholic school for their child next year? St Pius X School is open for enrolments for 2020 and we look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested in enrolling their child at our school. Please contact our office manager at office@saintpius.school.nz or ring 236 7006 for more information.

Thank you for all your continued support of our school – we are very grateful for the many ways you help us. God bless you all

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Sacramental Programme Candidates 2019



These children received the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation and eucharist this year.

Candidates from Our Lady of Hope Parish:

Johann Aboy, Frances Dawn Bermudez, Eashan Cimafranca, Marlee Lyon Condon, Manaia Edwards, Albento Fernandes, Alfredo Fernandes, Jose Gabayeron, MacKenzie Hartnell, Joann Lamositele-Sio, Joseph Lamositele-Sio, Winnie Lamositele-Sio, Lucas Mann, Gianni Martin, Thomas Newell, Luis Olegario, Gabriella Pitts, Jasper Race, Marc Romanes, Dwayne Salada, Lanayah Sekai, Feka Seu, Miriam Siave, Mikaylah Teofilo, Nikolah Teo Filo, Heavaln Tolova'a-Stanley, Sion Tolova'a-Stanley, Elysium Tolova'a-Stanley.

Bishop Viard College: Fay Nafatali, Fa'amanuia Paulo

Sacred Heart, Church, Petone: Catherine Marie Cleland, Mila Duncan

May the Lord bless them all and their families

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Obituary for David Belz - a scholar and a gentleman *by Bernie Griffin*

David Belz was born on Christmas Day, 1938, in Auckland. It was there, in Papakura, that he met Dorothy at the regular parish dances, when she was just 15 and he was 17. They were married in 1962 and some years later moved to Tawa, where their four children, Christine, Anthony, Margaret and Andrew, were brought up. It was at this time that I first got to know David.



David Belz 25-12-1938 - 24-7-2019

David always reminded me of a prophet or religious mystic. Not necessarily because of his strong Catholic beliefs and quiet, focussed demeanour, but in the way he spoke and presented himself. The way he sometimes walked, slowly, reflectively, meditatively down a Tawa street, stick in hand, head bowed, sunlight catching his white beard and hair. He seemed a person happy with his own company, a deep thinker. Chances being he was mulling over some theological mystery or mathematical conundrum or even something that was occupying him with family or home.

Yet he loved socialising and was a stalwart of many church and community groups, even sporting organisations. But his mind was always ticking over and it is true to say he was an intellectual. He seemed to enjoy dealing with big life questions. He investigated and researched far and wide for answers.

He loved oratory. He loved acting. His voice boomed out with great character and conviction. It would also be true to say he loved performing. He was a modern-day Shakespearean. He knew the power and value of words and seemed to relish them in much the same way as a connoisseur might relish and savour every carefully selected morsel in a fine, nutritious meal. In church, he brought the readings to life, his cadences washing over the congregation in dramatic, rhythmic style. It was easy for people to picture those biblical times and gain greater understanding of religious history and faith.

David Belz had a simple approach to life. He smiled readily and chuckled often. He enjoyed people's company. But one of his great passions was the study of the Shroud of Turin. He communicated on the subject through the internet with people right round the world. He could write screeds about the Shroud and its authenticity – and often did. As long-time editor of the parish magazine (at that time

Tawa Catholic News, before the parish amalgamation) he allowed himself to indulge this fascinating passion. His writings were scholarly and exacting.

David was a man of infinite interests. A clever brain. Always interesting in conversation. His background in engineering, mathematics, finance and music went hand in hand with his meticulous study of the world and the universe. This approach stayed with him right to the end. He may even have been delving into something complex and deep before his wife Dorothy found him at the computer. No fuss, no bother. He died peacefully. Rest in peace David.

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Filipino Community December Events – Please Join Us

Barangay ~ ~ Fiesta ~ ~ Simbang Gabi



Barangay is 'village' in Filipino, the smallest administrative unit in the Philippines. The Filipino Chaplaincy of the Archdiocese of Wellington is divided into pastoral areas, each called a Barangay named after a saint. Barangay St Francis Xavier includes all suburbs Tawa to Plimmerton. Initially, Tawa had the greatest numbers and so named the unit *Barangay St Francis Xavier* after the local Catholic school.

In the Philippines, every barangay stages a celebration on the feast day of its namesake or patron. **Fiesta**, religious feast in Spanish, is an occasion characterized by celebration of Masses, streets decorated with banners, parades and entertainment, and plenty of food, served by families who open their homes to families and friends from near or far.

Following this tradition our own **Barangay St Francis Xavier** will host a **FIESTA!**

Come celebrate with us on Sunday 1 December 2019.

Fr Marlon Tebelin will celebrate Mass at St Pius X church in Titahi Bay at 3 pm, followed by a shared meal at St Pius X school hall.

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino tradition of a novena before Christmas. As a spiritual preparation for Christmas, Mass is celebrated on these 9 days to recall the birth of Jesus and honour his mother the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also a time when people pray for blessings from the Lord. It is believed that one who completes the novena will be granted their prayers. Traditionally, Mass is celebrated at dawn when it is still dark. (*Simbang Gabi means 'night mass'*).

Simbang Gabi will be marked at Our Lady of Fatima Church, from Sunday 15 December to Monday 23 December. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information text 0204 180 1494 or email brgysfx@gmail.com

Mass Times in Nearby Parishes

With some churches closing and mass times being rescheduled, it may be helpful to know all the options in our area , especially if your preferred time and place is no longer available. **Our Lady of Hope parish times highlighted.**

Saturday vigil 5:30pm 1st Sat. St Andrew's Newlands; 2nd Sat. St Benedict's Khandallah; 3,4,5th Sats. Sts Peter & Paul, Johnsonville

5:30pm St Pius X, Titahi Bay

6pm St Teresa's, Plimmerton & Holy Family, Porirua

Sunday

8:30am Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa

9:30am St Teresa's, Plimmerton & Holy Family, Porirua

10:00am Te Ngākau Tapu (Māori Mass)

10:30am Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa & Sts Peter & Paul J'ville

11:00am St Andrew's, Newlands

5:15pm Te Ngākau Tapu (English Mass)



Christmas Fun Morning

Friday 20 Dec 10am-12.30 pm

At Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa

Leave your 4 year-olds upwards with us while you catch up with some last minute shopping!

We will be practising for the Family Mass from 12 noon.

(Christmas Family Mass - 7pm 24 December)

For more information contact Marie: 021 476 153.

Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

Baptisms

Name of child	Parents	Date
Matthew Robert McCardle	Hannah & Paul McCardle	10 August 2019
Michayla Kahurangi Grace O'Hara	Megan O'Hara	15 September 2019
Peighton Irene Mary Trischler	Hannah Trischler	15 September 2019
Erianna Macey Seno Cimafranca	Ma Adesa & Efren Cimafranca	28 Sept. 2019
Andray Zion Agujar Arroyo	Farah & Russell Arroyo	12 October 2019
Ella Madeline Boyle	Laura & Daniel Boyle	26 October 2019

Deaths

David Thomas George Belz	24 July 2019
Kathryn Mary Balemi	27 July 2019
Filomena Utuma Seufatu Lolesio	23 August 2019
Benjamin Caronongan	28 August 2019
Jack Critchley QSM	9 September 2019
Ethel Catherine Roa	27 September 2019



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How we change the time each Spring and Autumn ...

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 Rico de la Torre - parish priest, Marie Prescott - chair; Telesia Alaimoana, Lagi Anamani; Jane Bolton; Raymond Fernando; Dorothy Jansen (St Pius X School rep); John Lafaele; Ray Lindsay; Rupi Mapusua; Litea Meli and Regan Stallard.

Regular events

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women, Third Sat.
1:30 pm, at Connolly Hall,
Next to Cathedral, Wellington.

Joshua Catholic Fellowship for Men, Third Thurs. 7:30 pm, at Connolly Hall

Monthly luncheons in Tawa church foyer, First Tuesday of each month.

Time together, weekly games, Tawa church meeting room, Thursdays 1:30 pm,

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

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

Youth Group, College Years 9 to 13, Fridays, 8:00 - 9:30pm

Leo Connor Hall, during school term;

Other events: check website calendar: www.ourladyofhope.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
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Exemption from Means-Testing

A pre-paid funeral plan assists elderly contributors who may be in a rest home, or are contemplating moving into one. Government rules provide for an exemption of \$10,000 from a person's assets for prepaying a funeral and related expenses. This amount is not included in a person's assets being means-tested for rest home subsidies.

Interest is paid monthly on all monies held. After the funeral, Ninness Funeral Home will issue a funeral invoice. If there is any shortfall in funeral expenses a further invoice will be issued for payment. *Any surplus funds after payment of funeral expenses will be refunded.*

For further helpful information, visit the Ninness Funeral Home website:
<http://ninness.co.nz>.

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

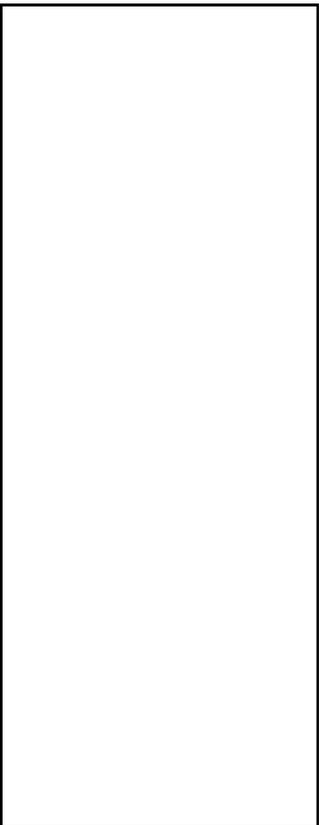
Wednesday – 27 November

Note: no December shuttle

Wednesday – 29 January 2020

Wednesday – 26 February (*Ash Wednesday*)





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

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