



Stories of HOPE

July 2021

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

*Jesus, light of the world
is alive and with us.*

*He has sent his Spirit to
enlighten our minds.*

*Special feature:
meet the new Catholics
received at Easter 2021*

Marika, baptised at the Eater Vigil



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 news 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 232 7206 magazine@ourladyofhope.org.nz

Deadline for next edition: 5 November 2021 The date will also be advertised in the weekly newsletter nearer the time and may vary from the one shown.

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

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From the Editor

by *Jane Langham*



Miracle Cure?

When there is a great leap forward in medicine or a new drug is developed, it is often referred to as a 'miracle cure' - and indeed many researchers will say that their discovery was serendipitous, or by chance. (Divine inspiration?) Yet how soon are these advances and cures taken for granted! The 'miraculous' nature of their discovery forgotten. When my mother was at school, she told me, children would regularly disappear from the scene - they had died from diphtheria or scarlet fever. I remember from my school days children who ended up in an iron lung with polio, or those who recovered coming back wearing clumsy callipers to help them walk.

These days, babies are routinely vaccinated against these, and other life-threatening diseases - a fact that we now take for granted. Let us hope that we can all remember to thank God for inspiring and guiding our research scientists of the past and the present. Thanks to everyone's prayers, we now have several good options of covid vaccine available. Let us hope and pray that we can all soon be protected. And thank God for inspiring the scientists, don't ignore his good gifts by avoiding vaccination.

In this edition of Stories of Hope there are many articles that can give us 'hope': the inspiring and heart-warming testimony of some of our newest Catholics (p.15) several special anniversary events (p.26) and the always-interesting and encouraging news from our primary schools (p.20). Of special note is the news that Christine McDonald has ended her time as principal of St Pius X school.

Of special interest to those who have been in the parish long enough to remember the Holden family is the wonderful news that Sr Joy Marie (Brenda Holden) has now made her perpetual vows with the Missionaries of Charity. (p.27) The family have asked that we remember to pray for her. We can also remember to pray for the seminarians from our parish, Matthew White and Joseph Mijares, and all those preparing for the priesthood for our archdiocese.

Our parish functions well because of the commitment and involvement of so many people in so many different ways - there are service groups, liturgical teams, social groups, faith formation and fellowship groups. Small groups enliven their members to go out and serve others.

In this edition we hear about the 'invisible ministry' of church cleaning (p.14) and celebrate with the Marian Mothers/Women of Faith groups as they mark a special anniversary. (p.10) A celebration by the St Vincent de Paul group reminds us that all of us age or experience a change in circumstances and eventually need to step down from active service or involvement with a particular group. (p.30) Let us hope that it is also an encouragement to others to step up and join a group or ministry in the parish. This is a good way to grow fellowship and community and also for individuals to meet more parishioners. There is once again an inspiring feature illustrating how the everyday meetings of friends and people in our community can lead us to ponder and reflect on our faith and the teachings from Pope Francis (or other church documents) (p.6)

I hope that you will find something to bring hope and encouragement to your life. And remember that we are always keen to have a testimony from your faith journey, reports of news or special events in your group or family.

Or a poem, artwork, or book review.

Keep warm and safe.

Jane

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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.

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. Any parishioner can request to receive the email link as well as their printed copy.

Just contact: ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz or 232 5611

Would YOU like to be part of a new parish team?



A team with a coordinator and 3 - 6 helpers is needed to organise the distribution of this parish magazine *Stories of Hope*

There are three editions each year: March, July and November.

Help is needed for a just few hours over each of three weeks for each edition. *Full training will be given.*

If you would like to help, please contact Jane
on 232 7206 or
magazine@ourladyofhope.org.nz

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Raising a child with social values

by Ian Munro



How do you raise a kid with values in a world where values seem to count for very little?"

A soon-to-be father was admitting to me that he was feeling very uneasy about the world his son is shortly to be born into. Even in the relatively short time since he was a youngster, he feels the world has changed significantly.

And he's right. Ask any schoolteacher. They witness the changes first-hand on an ongoing basis over decades.

Twenty years ago, we muttered and laughed about not believing what a politician said. Today, many of the world's leaders seem to openly and comfortably lie and mislead and think nothing of it.

Social media appears to be hardening opinion into a black and white, them-or-us approach to just about everything and aggressive and vile name-calling replaces the exchange of ideas and intelligent, informed discussion.

Not to mention the financial fraudsters, the child abusers, violent parents, the people in high places only owning up to a “misjudgement” when caught out and those in the commercial world who see young people not in nurturing, protective terms but in dollar terms.

Over the previous four decades our social conscience seems to have been dulled by heavy doses of a political philosophy of ‘dog eat dog’ material self-interest.

Radical individualism is a virus

As Pope Francis has recently reminded us:

Individualism does not make us more free, more equal, more fraternal. The mere sum of individual interests is not capable of generating a better world for the whole human family. ... Radical individualism is a virus that is extremely difficult to eliminate, for it is clever. It makes us believe that everything consists in giving free rein to our own ambitions, as if by pursuing ever greater ambitions and creating safety nets we would somehow be serving the common good. [Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 105]

However, the good news is, that despite all this, most New Zealand youngsters still do grow up to be decent people with decent values. It’s sometimes hard to see this when we have paraded before us, daily, the teenage drunks, the drugs, the boy-racers, and the vicious assaults and murders involving young people.

Yet, buried amongst these headlines, there are reports of youngsters making a difference. Some have rescued people older than themselves from a series of life-endangering incidents – fires, tidal rips and motor vehicle accidents. Others have raised money or provided labour to help others in less favourable situations.

Christchurch’s student army, formed in the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes, showed that our young people do still have a social conscience and understand about serving the common good. Similar groups have formed in the years since, including our own Tawa College student army.

Just before last Christmas, two delightful youngsters came to our door with a request for supplies for the food bank. They were polite, knew exactly what they were doing, could answer questions about why the food was needed and told me how their family was going to help those less fortunate than themselves on Christmas Day.

A bit of investigation shows that there are still many hundreds of other young people who do consider the needs of others - they're involved in Amnesty International, Young Vinnies and St John, they coach junior sports teams, help organise community events for other young people, visit sick neighbours and homes for the aged and contribute pocket money towards a sponsored child.

Hopefully, the "team of 5 million" kindness approach to managing Covid further embeds this approach in our youngsters and our national psyche.

Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue

Kindness frees us from the cruelty that at times infects human relationships, from the anxiety that prevents us from thinking of others, from the frantic flurry of activity that forgets that others also have a right to be happy Yet every now and then, miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference. If we make a daily effort to do exactly this, we can create a healthy social atmosphere.... Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue. Precisely because it entails esteem and respect for others.... [Fratelli Tutti, 224]

Every society needs to ensure that values are passed on

Over the last months, we have been challenged to build a society that honours the human person and the common good of all. The parable of the Good Samaritan featured in Pope Francis's Fratelli Tutti and in subsequent homilies and discussion groups. Jesus finishes this parable with the admonishment to "go and do likewise". [Luke 10:37]

So how does this soon-to-be-father go about pointing his son in the right direction to "go and do likewise"?

By doing likewise himself. He does as he says, because his son will be watching. That's every minute they're together for 18 years. If father cheats on something, is a little dishonest somewhere, is abusive to others, son will take on board those lessons.

As parents we need to be clear about the things we believe in, the standards we set ourselves and the sort of adult we'd like our youngsters to become. Even young

children have ideas about right and wrong and can make decisions based on these ideas. They observe every aspect of parental behaviour and absorb our values and the way they're applied.

Every society needs to ensure that values are passed on; otherwise, what is handed down are selfishness, violence, corruption in its various forms, indifference and, ultimately, a life closed to transcendence and entrenched in individual interests. [Fratelli Tutti, 113]

Families are the first place where values are lived out and handed on

Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. [Fratelli Tutti, 114]

Ponder this: when were we last passionate about doing something for the good of others? Have our children seen us in action? Is helping others a part of their daily lives?

A social conscience is something children learn from observing us. They can't be told to make it part of who they are. It grows in them as they see us caring about others and about international, national and local issues.

Whether it's marching in a cause, collecting for charity, coaching sport, the PTA, youth group leadership or delivering meals-on-wheels, they need to see us enthusiastically volunteering and to be a part of it.

How we model our values and our faith will shape our youngsters' values and faith. Well-established family values will guide their actions as they grow up and move out into the world around them.

They will test these values and their faith from time to time and, at some point, might experiment with things Mum and Dad wouldn't do. However, our modelling will generally win through in the end. The stronger children's values systems are then the more likely it will be that they will be able stand up for themselves and maybe even exert positive peer pressure.

As well, our soon-to-be father will respect himself, will respect his wife and will respect his children. It's been said that one of the best things a father can do for his children is to demonstrably love their mother. That might sound very paternalistic, but, as with St Joseph, it is one of the greatest of values a father can model for both his sons and his daughters in shaping them as adults.

Marian Mothers /Women of Faith - Celebrating 40 years!

Patricia Fouhy, Aimee Fouhy, Jane Langham photos Monique Lopez

All of us benefit from having the support and encouragement of others around us – and this includes our faith life. Christians have always met in small groups to pray and support each other.

In 1981, after much ‘encouragement’ from his six sisters with young families, Marist priest Fr John Allardyce began facilitating groups that were initially to be a means for young mothers at home with their pre-schoolers to meet and support each other in faith lived as a mother. **So this year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of these groups.**



Our Lady of Hope Marian Mothers meet in family homes and sometimes have outings together



The format was to be so that the group could meet and all the resources needed would be provided – no-one need do preparation before the meeting.

The very first group was in Karori, but they soon spread by word-of-mouth. A group was started in Tawa in 1987 by Marie Andrewartha. This group has continued since then with mothers meeting in the daytime once a month.

Numbers have fluctuated over the years, but the group has always met. Over time, some of the mothers who had been early members returned to the workforce, but missed the fellowship of the Marian Mothers group. From these, Catharine Gallen gathered a group to meet in the evenings, calling themselves 'Women of Faith'. (*Woman of Faith* is one of the titles of Mary, mother of Jesus.) This group has had new members join and others move on but it continues to meet. They now use the material sent for regular Marist Laity groups, rather than as prepared for groups that may have pre-schoolers running around!

One stage further on, this group now meets in the mornings, not evenings, as current members are near or past retirement age.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN BOTH GROUPS

The format for both groups is the same – some social time (either at the start or end of the gathering), opening Scripture with reflection, listen to material prepared by the Marist Laity team from Auckland, (faith applied to life situations) share faith experience based on the presentation, then a time of prayer for our families and the wider community.

Currently in Tawa we have evidence of the lasting appeal and benefit of these groups. Amie Fouhy is a member of the Marian Mothers group. She writes:

I joined Marian Mothers when our family moved to Tawa a few years ago. It was a great way to meet people who share my faith. Eight years later the people in this group have become some of my closest friends. For me, as a mum of littlies, it's refreshing to have somewhere to go where the focus is on the mums and our spiritual growth.

Amie's mother-in-law, Pat Fouhy, was a member of the very first Marian Mothers group in Karori. She and her husband Mark are now part of this parish and Pat has joined the Women of Faith group. She writes:

When I came to this parish in late 2019, I ticked the box (on the parish sign-up form) for a 'Women of Faith' group, which specifically targeted older women. I really had no idea quite what I was joining, except it was a 'spiritual' group, not merely a social coffee morning.

At the first meeting I only knew one person, whom I had previously met at mass, but I was warmly greeted by a small, friendly group of women similar in age to me. I discovered the history behind this group and how it was an

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'older' Marian Mothers' group, which was a complete surprise to me as I had been one of the original members in the first MM group in Karori.

There was written material for the topic and a CD to listen to, which I remembered was also the format I had known before. Then came prayer time and a chance to offer up our petitions to God. At first I found it 'full-on' and it made me a little uncertain about continuing, but the women were so welcoming and as they knew each other really well, they were comfortable about opening up and saying what they honestly felt.

I now look forward to each meeting and it is good knowing that the topics are well worth our time and raise our spiritual awareness of what is happening in the Church.

We know that a number of people praying together have a powerful effect on both our faith and the Church, so I do sincerely pray these groups will continue to flourish.



Our Lady of Hope Women of Faith group

The Society of Mary (Marists) were the first Catholic missionaries sent to the Pacific region in the mid-19th century, so there has always been a Marist presence in New Zealand since that time – priests, brothers, sisters and lay people. Lay people have been a part of the Society since it first began and it was lay Marist missionaries who later formed some of the local groups of religious sisters – the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (with Françoise Perreton) and the Sisters of Compassion (started by Suzanne Aubert).

Groups of lay people following Marist spirituality (Marist Laity) have continued around the world and also in New Zealand. In most places, professed Marists support these groups in some way and in New Zealand it is usually by means of the monthly material distributed, along with prayer and reflection days or retreats that are offered around various parts of the country.

For more information, there are leaflets in the parish leaflet rack; you can visit the Marist Laity web site; or you can contact one of the Tawa group leaders.

Or you could come along to one of the meetings to see if this is for you. The weekly newsletter has dates and venues for the monthly meetings.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN BOTH GROUPS

**Or you could begin a new Marist Laity or Marian Mothers group
with some of your existing friends.**

Web site: maristlaitynz.org **Marian Mothers:** Mary 232 2088 or 021 120 4717

Women of Faith: Jane 232 7206 or 021 189 5953

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Parish Website: ourladyofhope.org.nz

If you have accessed the web site recently you may have noticed that the content is incomplete - including no current copy of Stories of Hope.

Current weekly bulletins and all notices are on the site.

This is because a new web site was recently developed and all the data is not yet fully transferred.

As soon as possible the web site will be fully updated and all information accessible again.

Thanks to those who have created the web site and those who will be responsible for keeping it updated.

A sacred job – cleaning the house of the Lord *by Espie Hernandez*

Our Lady of Hope Parish is blessed to have just enough (*more always welcome!*) volunteers in various church ministries.

These volunteers make the parish a vibrant community. Every time we come to church to worship, for fellowship, for meetings, we see these people who very gladly volunteer their time. At every Mass we see the readers, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, collectors, and volunteers who take the offertory. We hear music ministry volunteers play their instruments and sing. We see the lovely flowers arranged by volunteer florists. We enjoy the food and drink provided by volunteers serving refreshments after Mass.

However, there are volunteers whom we never see; they do their tasks when the church is empty! They have not heard anyone complain about the job they do; they must be doing a good job. But neither have they heard any compliments. They could just as well be **INVISIBLE!** They are the church cleaners. Their tasks include, but are not limited to, vacuuming the main church area, side chapel, crying room, choir loft, foyer, meeting room, kitchen and sacristy; dusting; picking up stuff of all sorts (rubbish!) from the pews; glass cleaning; cleaning the toilets. A sacred job, I say – cleaning the house of the Lord!



At present, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa has nine groups on the church cleaning roster – two community groups (Tawa Filipino community and Samoan Legion of Mary), six groups of three members each and a couple. Each group does their cleaning ministry once every nine weeks. Cleaning materials and equipment are available in the cleaning cupboard located in one of the restrooms. I heard we have a new vacuum cleaner – YAY!

Groups are **AUTONOMOUS** - cleaning tasks are done at a time and manner that suits the group. Workload is divided as per member's capability and interest, some volunteers prefer only to clean the rest rooms!

Groups work **UNSUPERVISED** - the group decides whether to do a deep clean, but most of the time surface cleaning is all that is needed.

FLEXITIME applies – clean as a group on a weekend, or members work individually at a time convenient for them. Cleaning time can be long or short depending on the group members' availability.

July 2021

Sorry WFH (Working from Home) not applicable!

No previous church cleaning experience required, if you can work a vacuum cleaner, or hold a rag to wipe dust off surfaces, or pick up stuff from the pews – **DO PLEASE** join Our Lady of Hope Parish's church cleaning ministry. Better still, invite your friends and form a group!



If keen to join kindly email ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz
or ring the parish secretary Jane Lee on 232 5611

It is easy and rewarding doing this sacred job –
cleaning the house of the Lord!

Disclaimer – my apologies that I only described church cleaning at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa, as I am not familiar with how the church cleaning rosters work for St Pius X Church, Titahi Bay. I am sure they would be happy for you to join them.

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Easter 2021 our new parishioners' journeys - an introduction by Kingsley Ihejirika



The 2019 programme for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in our parish commenced, but with the disruptions of COVID-19 in 2020, the programme was not completed at Easter 2020, as anticipated. However, the catechumens in that year were baptised in September 2020. Undeterred by the setback, the RCIA team commenced the next programme in late November 2020, witnessing a commendable number of catechumens who were eventually welcomed into the church at the Easter Vigil with Baptism and Confirmation. Some of these catechumens have indicated willingness to share the story about their journey of faith. It is evident from the story of each participant that someone acted as a catalyst to either initiate or fan into flame their journey of faith.

This is a wonderful testimony of witnessing and the RCIA team are even more resolved to keep this fire alive by exposing people to the word of God, the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.

We hope there will be more testimonies in later editions.

Easter 2021 our new parishioners' journeys - *in their own words*

Photos: Bernie Griffin and Monique Lopez



Candidates and sponsors after the Easter Vigil Mass

Cassandra Truscott

I am a year 13 student, I play hockey, like debating and I do rifle shooting. I enjoy living with my family. My journey of faith started when I was quite young. My family is Christian and I grew up going to church in South Africa. When we moved to New Zealand, because the church services were quite late in the day, my family gradually stopped going to church. At a sleepover at one of my friends (it was a Saturday/Sunday), she asked if I would go to church with her. Before that time, I wasn't hanging out with the right people. So, I just thought I would go with her. I went and I really enjoyed it. It wasn't a Catholic Church. I went there for a few years.



Cassie

In year eleven, my grandma was visiting (in 2019). On the day of Corpus Christi, she asked about the nearest Catholic Church. I didn't know about the one in Tawa, so we went to St Mary of the Angels in Wellington. Going to the Catholic Church was the first time I connected with a church and its people. I guess I'd had a few 'charismatic faith' and 'baptism in the Holy Spirit' and 'God experiences', but that was the first time I connected with a church and its people. I started going to the Catholic church after that. Over the next year, I didn't go to church very regularly,

as I felt confused and a bit lost as to how I could help God, and what He could want me for, but I decided one Sunday to go to a mass at St Mary of the Angels, and again, felt connected to, not only God, but His church. It was still a bit of hard work getting back into the habit of going to church, but when I came to Our Lady of Fatima at the start of 2021, a few of the young people (Catharina Lee and Anna Rayner) came up to me and asked if I wanted to pray a rosary with them and I did. It's been a very positive experience here. I was amazed at these other young people who seemed to have God and the church as such a big part of their lives, and I was encouraged to try making it a bigger part of mine. I have felt very welcomed in the parish. In general, everyone is willing to help me, obviously because I am new. But I like that they are willing to help me develop my faith and would like to see more young people participating in the parish actively.

Father Rico and the RCIA team were really helpful in answering my questions without judgement, and seemed genuinely keen to help all of us in our different journeys, and the RCIA programme was incredibly helpful in introducing me to the church and everything in it. I was confirmed at Easter this year, and since then, other parishioners and Christians have been so kind and patient in helping me understand more about God and the church, and how to better live my life around God and His teachings.

I'd like to say a special thank you to everyone who has helped and continues to help me along my journey, and I hope anyone with the same questions or doubts is able to find the encouragement they need.



Kingston Ivory Haul-Graham and his children Marika and Manuel Baptised and received into the church at the Easter Vigil

Manuel and God-parents

Eric Boamah I come from Ghana. I am the second of five children in a strong Catholic family. Growing up in Ghana, I went to Mass every Sunday and attended all church activities. But I did that because I had to follow my family to church. Although I believed in God, I had not made a personal decision to accept Him to lead my life. It was not until I was 22 years, that I received my baptism and confirmation It was Easter Saturday and I was baptized at a College of Education where I was training to become a teacher. This part of my story is quite significant because, the president of the Catholic Chaplaincy, Stephen Bilson-Ogoe, was my best friend, and he was instrumental in my decision to receive baptism. Stephen introduced me to lots of books on the Catholic faith and we took part in a lot of the chaplaincy activities together. After college, Stephen went to the seminary and became a Catholic priest. He gave the homily at my wedding.

My wife, Diana was a Presbyterian - she became a Catholic after our wedding. We encourage each other on the journeys of marriage and life. We believe God wants to bless us through our family and wants us to use our family to bless others. One of the many ways God has blessed us was by giving us three lovely kids, Erica (13), Annamaria (11), and David (4). He speaks to us every day through these kids; through some of the words they say during family prayer and also how they respond to what Diana and I tell them.

My family moved to New Zealand in 2013 and when we moved to Tawa, we felt welcome to Our Lady of Fatima. Since we came to New Zealand, we've joined some of our friends to fellowship with them in their churches. But we always enjoy going to Mass. When Erica and Anna started asking us questions about some of the procedures in the order of Mass, we thought it was time for them to attend RCIA. Father Rico, Kingsley, and several other teachers at the RCIA programme helped to explain all the questions and I also learned a lot of new things myself.

My inspiration to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be baptized comes from Mark 16:15-16. Jesus commanded his disciples to go to all the earth and preach the gospel to all creation, and He said, He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. But he who disbelieves shall be condemned. I believe and I am glad He has saved me.

My motivation to have my whole family baptized comes from Acts 16:31. When the Jailer saw what God had done with Paul and Silas, he asked them, Sir, what must I do to be saved. They said to him, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household. I believe Jesus did not save me alone, he saved me and my household. So, it is important I encourage them too to receive baptism, just as the jailer did to his household. I am glad and thankful to God for making my family understand and believe, And now, my kids have their own experience to share after receiving the gospel.



Erica

Before being baptized I knew I had to do the right thing and how to do it. Right after I was baptized I kept getting the questions *'Do you feel different?'* I was not sure what I was supposed to say or whether I was supposed to feel different. But after being baptized I feel that I now have to be good. Not for myself but as a role model for others. I think now that it is easier to leave things up to God and not be so stressed. Right now I feel good and glad to be a part of a church. I praise God for bringing me into the Christian world.

Annamaria

My name is Annamaria and before I got baptized I was always unhappy and would get sad or angry at the smallest things. Then I got baptized and my eyes were open to a new world. I learned to let God lead my life instead of me or my peers. God has helped me understand that some things aren't worth getting sad or angry over. God is truly amazing.



David



Adam Flynn

Baptised and received into the church at the Easter Vigil. [Back](#)

St Pius X School - by *Christine MacDonald (Principal)*

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



Term 2 News Kia ora e te whānau, it's hard to believe we have already had two terms this year. It's been a great term and the children have enjoyed many learning opportunities.



Mother's Day Mass and Fun: Term 2 started well with happy faces ready to return to school. On Friday 7 May we celebrated Mothers through Mass, activities and morning tea. It was great to see so many mums, grandmas and other special people come along to this event.

Connect and Activate: A joint venture with Te Rauparaha Arena, Kelly Sports and Porirua schools started in the first week of the term. The years 4-6 students went to the Arena every Tuesday to participate in a range of sports from swimming and water safety, through to football skills and tag games. This is a great initiative which our students, along with others in the area, are thoroughly enjoying.

KidsCan Visit: In May, the KidsCan champions and their sponsors visited St Pius X School and gave every child a brand new raincoat. We are so grateful to KidsCan for these jackets as they will keep our children warm in winter.



MoveMprove Gymnastics: Our students have been enjoying participating in MoveMprove gymnastics. This is a great programme designed to teach children about balance, agility, strength and perseverance. This continues into Term 3.

Ngahere o te Ako – The Forest of Learning: After Queen's Birthday and a very long wait, our junior students, along with their teachers, moved into their newly refurbished space – Ngahere o te Ako. Initially three classrooms, this area has been opened up and has a beautiful deck outside. This space has been designed

for juniors, especially for learning through play. The children love being in their Ngahere o te Ako. Sadly, the blessing and reopening of this space was postponed due to changes in COVID-19 alert level. A new date and time will be notified soon.

Samoan Language Week: It was great to have fono and school come together to learn and share about the Samoan Language and culture. Thank you to Larissa Toelupe for your commitment visiting our school and teaching our students all about Samoa. Thanks to Miss Matla for organising the language competition. Here are some of the winners.



Professional Learning & Development: Staff have recently started Professional Development in Restorative Practices through the PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) programme. It is designed to encourage positive conversations that enable restoration of friendships. This also fits in well with the Catholic Special Character of the school, as Jesus asks us to forgive others.

Celebrating Support Staff : At St Pius X School we are fortunate to have a wonderful team of support staff who manage the office – Mrs Angeline O’Connor, and teacher aides in classrooms – Julie de Boer, Beryl O’Neill and Scott McAuley. In mid-June we gathered at morning tea to thank them for all their mahi.



Book Week and Book Character Day:

In week 9 we held our annual book week. The theme was *Under the Sea*. The children dressed up as creatures from under the sea and had great fun making their outfits. A big thank you to Julie de Boer for all her mahi setting up this event.



Matariki Celebration: On Tuesday 6 July the whole school whanau gathered to share hangi and then listen to the children share waiata. What a beautiful evening it was. Thank you for all the donations of kai and a big thank you to all those who helped prepare, cook and share kai. This was a real team effort. Thank you to the teachers and Koka Charley, from Bishop Viard College, for preparing our tamariki for this special occasion. It was great to see them coming into the hall with their pretty Matariki lights. They sang a range of waiata to celebrate Matariki.

Vinnies: Thank you to Amanda Joe, from St Vincent de Paul, who has been teaching the year 6 Vinnies about helping and caring for others. Their most recent trip was to the harbour to clean up rubbish. This was followed by yummy hot chocolate from *Get Fixed Bicycle Café*. It's great to see our students caring for the environment.

Caritas Mufti Day: On the last day of term, children wore mufti to raise funds for Kristus Raja School in West Papua. We are a small school and I am very grateful to families who were able to contribute to this cause.

Board and Staff Changes: On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank



Joel de Boer and Sami Whitehouse for their service to St Pius X School Board of Trustees. They have recently resigned due to work commitments. I am grateful for their support and commitment to the school and wish them well for the future.

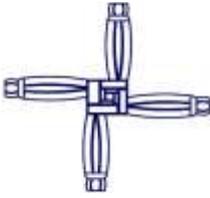
I am also finishing at St Pius X School and my last official day is 23 July. I have been at St Pius X School for 19 years, first as a teacher aide, then teacher, and lastly principal. I have really enjoyed my time here and am grateful to everyone for their support, help and kindness over the years. I will certainly miss the children, staff and community. Thank

Farewell for Christine McDonald

you to the St Pius X School community for my farewell. It was so moving hearing the children and staff speak. I wish the school all the best for its future. May God be with you always.

Keep warm and well over this winter period. May God bless you all and keep you safe. **New Website** St Pius X School new website: saintpius.school.nz/

St Francis Xavier School - by Joan Woods



Term 2 News We have been delighted to welcome a number of new students to St Francis Xavier School during Term 2. We have had thirteen students to welcome: eleven to Kōwhai Class, which is for New

St Francis Xavier School Entrants, one 8 year-old and one 9 year-old. These new students are formally welcomed to our school during our assemblies, where they have a school korowai.
Strength and Gentleness
Tu Maia, Tu Aroha

We were also delighted to welcome Chelsea Blyde back from maternity leave, and Donna Holmes, who has been Kauri class teacher since the beginning of Term 2.

Some Highlights in Term 2: Year 5 and 6 camp at El Rancho in Waikanae.

The children all enjoyed the amazing new experiences they were offered. A big bonus was all the sunshine while on camp.

Another highlight was our **grandparents and special family friends morning.**

Grandparents and special family friends joined us at school for a very memorable morning. Following a liturgy led by Father Marlon, the children all took to the stage to perform for the audience and then showed their visitors around their classrooms.

We were very grateful to our Parents and Friends group who served morning tea to our visitors.



Stories of Hope

At the end of May, we held **Book Week**, the week ending with the children coming to school dressed as a character from a book they knew and enjoyed. The day finished with a big parade with the children sharing their costumes and books.

During **Science Week** the children were all involved in carrying out experiments and making predictions and observations. There was also the opportunity for children to visit other classrooms to take part in a range of scientific activities. Each week through the term we have been receiving a range of science activities that have been available for teachers to use in classrooms. This has given children the opportunity to enjoy hands-on experiences.

Religious Education

During May, all classes learnt about Pentecost. The students enjoyed a range of activities including Bible stories, art, worksheets and in-depth discussions around how the Holy Spirit works through us.



“Let us learn to live with kindness, to love everyone, even when they do not love us.”

- **Pope Francis**

Syndicate liturgies are held regularly at school during the term.

Sports

This term Rimu, Pohutukawa, Ngaio and Kauri Classes have been involved in swimming lessons at Tawa Pool. Our school swimming sports will be in August.

We recently had our school cross-country and some of our students went on to represent St Francis Xavier School at the Zone and Inter-zone cross-country, with one student going on to qualify for the Regional cross-country event.



Students are involved in **Project Energize** again this term which promotes fitness and general well-being.

Our Year 5 and 6 netball team compete at Ngati Toa Domain each Saturday.

Enrolments for 2022

We recently held our **Five Next Term party** for children starting school in Term 3. This is an opportunity for pre-schoolers to meet children who will also be starting school in the next term and for parents and caregivers to meet each other. Everyone also enjoys the opportunity to meet with Mrs Hunt, our New Entrant teacher.

If you have a child who will turn five between now and the start of Term 1 2022 please ring the school office, (phone 232 8927) for an Enrolment Pack or visit our website www.sfxtawa.school.nz for more information regarding enrolment forms and procedures. I am very happy to meet with any new prospective parents.

Opportunities for Parents

Learning Conferences have been held this term. This is where parents are given the opportunity for home and school to share about their child and their learning.

Every Wednesday from 9:00am there is an opportunity for parents to meet in our staffroom over a cup of tea. Pre-schoolers are very welcome. This is also an opportunity to meet informally with the Principal.

Parents and Friends

Our Parents and Friends group continue to support our school by ongoing fundraising. They organise our **pizza lunches** every second Friday, when children can order a slice of pizza if they wish. Their current fundraiser is the annual **Pie Fundraiser** which is very popular with both our school parents and parishioners.

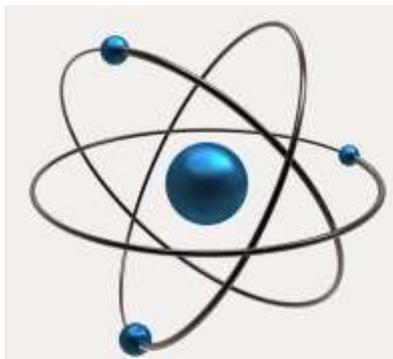
As you can see, Term 2 has been very busy. We look forward to Term 3 being just as busy with lots of learning opportunities for our students.

Term 3 commences on Monday 26 July and ends on Friday 1 October 2021.

[St Francis Xavier School website](#)

Why are atoms Catholic?

Because they have mass!



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Special Family Celebrations

Dorothy Belz turns 80 *by Sally Horan*

Friday 26th March was the 80th birthday of Dorothy Belz, a long-time parishioner, now living at Longview Rest Home in Tawa. I have known Dorothy all my 45 years in the parish. Over the years, we have been involved in very many parish groups together. She has been a member of a wide range of parish activities and could always be relied on to help wherever and whenever needed. Now she is not so mobile and is confined to a wheelchair, but enjoys visits from parishioners.



Our priests say Mass at Longview once a month. The March Mass coincided with Dorothy's birthday. Several parishioners joined with the residents to be part of this special day. At the conclusion of the Mass, Father Marlon presented flowers to Dorothy on behalf of the parish. Other parishioners now living at Longview were among those present at the Mass. It was very special for all who were there. Dorothy's son, Andrew, helped to make people aware of this special

day and requested prayers be said for his mother by friends and parishioners.

Photos. Top: Sr Francine with one of several gifts Dorothy received. Don't you love Dorothy's pink socks! Bottom: Fr Marlon presenting her with the flowers from the parish (another Longview resident, parishioner Jean Lundon, can be seen behind Father Marlon).

Sr Joy Marie Holden Makes her Final Vows

by Wendy Holden

Brenda Holden grew up in Tawa, where her parents and paternal grandparents had lived for many years. She attended Our Lady of Fatima church, St Francis Xavier School and Bishop Viard College. She joined the Missionaries of Charity after attending World Youth Day in 2008 in Sydney.

She has spent time serving in Rome, Macau, Taiwan, Calcutta and Naples. On Pentecost Sunday this year (23 May) she made her final vows in Rome. Her family were disappointed not to be able to travel to be with her, but Fr John Adams said Mass for her in Kaiapoi. They have since been able to view a recording of the ceremony.



This parish has another connection with the Missionaries of Charity.

Sister Margarita-Grace, older sister of Megan Stallard, made her final vows in 2009 in the Philippines. She is currently serving in Uganda, where there is now a new lockdown (42 days from late June) because of a third wave of Covid-19.

Please pray for all the sisters as they serve the poor.

Della O'Shaughnessy turns 90

by Rachel O'Shaughnessy

In early May, family and friends celebrated Della's 90th birthday with a beautiful afternoon tea at her home.

Her sons Kevin and Dermot were present, along with daughters-in-law, Catherine and Rachel, and her niece Julie. Della's two grandchildren, Danielle and Connor, were also there to enjoy the day.

Also attending her festivities were many long-standing friends of Della, from both Our Lady of Hope parish and the neighbourhood. It was a lovely opportunity to get together, have some great conversation and toast a joyous occasion.

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Kingsley Ihejirika celebrates achieving his PhD



Kingsley came to New Zealand four years ago to further his studies. The family joined him two years later and have lived in Tawa since then.

After completing his PhD thesis earlier this year, the graduation ceremony for Victoria University was on 18 May.

The family celebrated this occasion with a pot-luck dinner at the Linden Social Centre, to which they invited all those who have supported and encouraged them during this journey of study and family. These are the people who are now their friends in both parish and community.

Congratulations Kingsley!

In the photo are Amara, holding Chimdimma, baptised in Our Lady of Fatima two years ago, Kingsley, about to cut the special 'PhD Cake', Amikristi, who now attends St Francis Xavier school, and Chisim.

July 2021

Betty and Gerry Durr celebrate 60 years married



Betty and Gerry Durr's 60th Wedding Anniversary celebration was held on Sunday 27th June.

It was a lovely afternoon celebrating two very special people, along with their friends, brothers, sisters, four of their five children, thirteen of their sixteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

It was lovely to see everyone and celebrate their wonderful life together.

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St Vincent de Paul Celebration

by Marie Nicol

On Sunday 18th April Our Lady of Hope St Vincent de Paul conference held an afternoon tea at *The Coffee Addict* Café in Tawa. This gathering was to thank past members Chris and Peter Montague, Joy and Bill Chaplin, Betty and Gerry Durr, Kate Martin and Sister Francine for their commitment over many years in helping those in need within our local community. All have 'retired' fairly recently from active involvement with the conference.

Over the years these members have delivered countless food parcels, visited many sick and housebound parishioners and completed many acts of kindness and unselfish service in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul.

We pray that they may be blessed for giving themselves to the service of the poor.

We know Lord that you promised a heavenly kingdom to those who, by faith, do works of mercy in your name and we ask that you grant them your blessings.

Our conference is always looking for more members to join us in continuing to help those in need within our Tawa/Titahi Bay area. If you would like to know more about what we do please contact Marie Nicol on Ph 027 215 1553.



Photo from L to R : Peter and Chris Montague, Joy Chaplin Gerry and Betty Durr, Marie Prescott, Patrick McGill Marie Nicol, Bill Chaplin, Ian McClean.

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Special Coming Event: Te Ara a Maria/Mary's Way

Extracted from the article by David McLoughlin in Wel-Com April 2021



New Zealand's Catholic bishops will gather in Wellington on Sunday 15 August, 2021 for a Mass to renew Bishop Pompallier's 1838 dedication of this country to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven.

The Mass will be celebrated at the Wellington landmark St Mary of the Angels Church, which will become the national shrine of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven. August 15 is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year it is also a Sunday. Parishes throughout the country will be invited to join in prayer for the renewal of the dedication.

The bishops decided to renew the country's dedication to Our Lady following requests from parishioners during the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown last year.

Rangiora artist Damien Walker has been commissioned to paint an image of Mary and Jesus that will be unveiled at St Mary of the Angels on 15 August, then taken on a hiko around each of the country's six Catholic dioceses.

(Editor's note: this is not the image shown here) Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier, the Bishop of Western Oceania, celebrated the first Catholic Mass on New Zealand soil, on 13 January 1838 at Totara Point in the Hokianga, Northland At the Mass Bishop Pompallier dedicated this country to Mary under the title of *Our Lady Assumed into Heaven*. ...

Fr Kevin Mowbray sm, parish priest of St Mary of the Angels, says the church community is honoured and excited to be chosen as the national shrine. *'Mary herself was a pilgrim following her son in difficult and dangerous times,'* said Fr Kevin. *'So it is fitting we should ask her, at this present moment in our history through such a re-dedication, to accompany the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand as it too walks in faith with the Lord.'* ... In a pastoral letter about the 1838 dedication of the country to Mary, the New Zealand bishops wrote, *'Bishop Pompallier placed our country under the protection of Mary as she is now – alive, body and soul, rejoicing in the happiness of God's kingdom.'*

David McLoughlin is Communications Adviser, New Zealand Catholic Bishops – Te Huinga o ngā Pihopa Katorika o Aotearoa. *(Used with permission)*

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Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

Baptisms

Name of child	Parents
24 March 2021	
Dallas-Milz Seu	Enina Vaoliko-Seu and I'aoletaisua Seu
Ivory Jean Kura Russell-Lia	Nikki Duval and Tamasone Lia
Maryam Mansoor Jude	Safna and Anthony Jude
Glorious-Rome Robert John Waipouri	Karnell Anderson
Tepono-Raukura Karnell Azaria Hakaraia	Karnell Anderson
Konstance-Loyal Huriana Hakaraia-Myers	Karnell Anderson
Deen Mansoor Jude	Safna and Anthony Jude
3 April 2021 (Easter Vigil)	
Cassandra Truscott	
Adam Flynn	
Kingston Ivory Haua-Graham	
Marika Sabela Pereira	Dahlia Pereira and Kingston Haua-Graham
Manuel John Tuhoro Haua	Dahlia Pereira and Kingston Haua-Graham
Erica Akosua Fosua Boamah	Diana and Eric Boamah
Anna Maria Abena Amankwaa Boamah	Diana and Eric Boamah
David Kwaben Nyarmekye Boamah	Diana and Eric Boamah
10 April 2021	
Benjamin David Pitchford	Fiona McDiarmid and John Pitchford
1 May 2021	
Lucas Antonio McClelland	Neslene Alberto and Jesse McClelland
Joseph Marius Tabuzo Ilunio	Aiselyn and Jeffrey Ilunio
Presley Rose Hine Churms	Rosie and Brian Churms
Presley Talamaivao	Nina Iafeta and Paul Talamaivao
Aurelia Sapioa Moa Talamaivao	Morgan Neill and Junior Talamaivao
2 May 2021	
Lucas Daniel Woodnutt	Yuhan (Tina) and Daniel Woodnutt
15 May 2021	
Ysabel Gianna R Bernal	Ferizza and Vann Bernal
Athena Isabel Roque Aguila	Krystal and Darrell Aguila
6 June 2021	
Jack Henry Stewart	Jane and Kerry Stewart

12 June 2021

Kahliel-Tagi Parekura Iakopo-Te Runa

Anastasia Iakopo and Tipene Te Runa-Kidwell

Siania Akeliano Iakopo Nu-uali'itia Maria Iakopo and Filo Nu'uali'itia

Venessa Koleti Jennifer Vaoliko Rozanna Tuipulotu and James Vaoliko

Malaysia Tipesa Vaoliko Rozanna Tuipulotu and James Vaoliko

Filomena Keleiola Vaoliko Rozanna Tuipulotu and James Vaoliko

Enina Isabella Vaoliko Rozanna Tuipulotu and James Vaoliko

Paige Corazon Santiago Wine Patricia and Richard Wine

10 July 2021

Nhecole Zhea Cuaresma Emelyn and Romel Cuaresma

Marriages

Marilyn Pino and Alan Cooper 17 June 2021 at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Deaths

Paul Devereux 1 July 2021

Tony Mar 11 July 2021

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Mass Times in Nearby Parishes

Our Lady of Hope parish times highlighted.

- Saturday vigil**
 - 5:00pm St Andrew's Newlands
 - 5:30pm St Pius X, Titahi Bay**
 - 6:00pm St Teresa's, Plimmerton & Holy Family, Porirua
- Sunday**
 - 8:30am Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa**
 - 9:00 am St Benedict's, Khandallah
 - 9:30am St Teresa's, Plimmerton & Holy Family, Porirua
 - 10:00am Te Ngākau Tapu (Māori Mass)
 - 10:30am Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa &**
 - 10:30am Sts Peter & Paul Johnsonville
 - 5:15pm Te Ngākau Tapu (English Mass)

New Parishioners

If you are new to the parish, Welcome!

Please introduce yourself to the celebrant, another parishioner,
or call the parish office 9:30am -12:30pm 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; and Litea Meli.

Current Finance Committee Members

Fr Rico de la Torre - parish priest, Graeme Hansen - chair, Denise Dorman, Ted Gallen, Patrick McGill, Nicola O'Keeffe, Louis van Son, and Margaret Weaver.

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.

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

Women of Faith - 2nd Thursday am each month - see weekly newsletter

Xavier Youth Group - Years 9 to 13, alternate Fridays, 7:30 - 9:30pm OLF church
foyer. Check with Paul 027 304 0712

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
Ninness Funeral Home**

17 Kenepuru Drive, Porirua ph: 04 237 4174 fax: 04 237 4172
email: info@ninness.co.nz

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Ninness Funeral Home is one of the leading pre-paid funeral plan providers in Wellington, Porirua, Kāpiti Coast and Tawa. We offer a range of pre-paid funeral services and plans that can be tailored to suit you. Contributors to the Ninness FDANZ Pre-Paid Funeral Trust can have the peace of mind of knowing that the costs towards their funeral are covered.

Providing towards the cost of a funeral in advance ensures any awkwardness or embarrassment to relatives as the result of funeral expenses is avoided.

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.

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 pre-paying a funeral and related expenses. This amount is not included in a person's assets being means-tested for rest home subsidies.

For further helpful information: <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 – 28 July

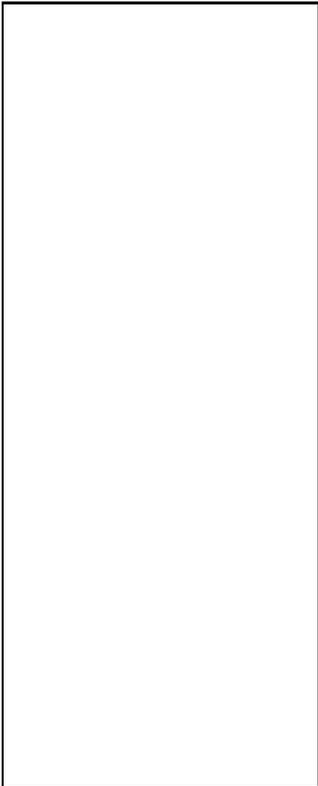
Wednesday – 25 August

Wednesday – 29 September

The shuttle will collect you from your gate or local bus stop.

Reserve a seat by phoning (04) 237-4174 no later than 12 noon on the Tuesday prior to the shuttle leaving.





If undelivered return to: P.O. BOX 51-029, TAWA, 5249
or email: ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz to remove
from the mailing list or you can phone 04 232 5611



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