



# Stories of HOPE

July 2022

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



*BVC Choir Acknowledged at The Big Sing*

*More details inside*

## 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

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**Deadline for next edition: 4 November 2022.** 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.

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## 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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Our sponsor, 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*



Another winter with Covid-19, but this year with influenza back with us also! It can be depressing, especially if you and/or others in the household are unwell and isolating, In such situations it's easy to lose connection with the parish or even with your usual circle of friends. Do remember (and let others know) that the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation are always available in the home for those unable to physically come to the church. (p.23) Those of us who are fortunate enough to still be out and about need also to remember people at home and keep in touch with phone calls and visits - remembering masks when visiting those who are vulnerable.

Even before Covid, religious affiliation in Tawa had noticeably changed over the years. In the 12 years between the 2006 and 2018 census results, those identifying as 'Christian' dropped from approximately 60% to 40%. I wonder how much more it has dropped in the following 4 years? The majority of the change seems to be to 'no religion'. How do we react to this? There is encouraging news from Anna about how young people in schools are responding positively to hearing the Good News about Jesus. You can also support Anna to enable her to continue this ministry, ([p.22](#))

To best help our family cope with any sort of problems, in this issue Ian reminds us that first and foremost we must look after our own welfare. ([p.6](#)) A great way of caring for our own welfare is through prayer and faith sharing in small groups, Read about the family prayer group on [p.16](#). Another significant part of our faith journey is our activity in the community - Christian witness through service. We have previously highlighted some others parishioners who are our local 'Good Sorts'. This edition we learn of the commitment of Fred and Yvonne to YODAT (Younger Onset Dementia Aotearoa Trust). ([p.13](#)) This is something else you may wish to support , but with your time and your love.

Parish activities are continuing to the extent that they can. Read about the challenges of running the Sacramental programme for our children last year, ([p.9](#)) and, as always, the many activities in our parish schools. This edition also features news from Bishop Viard College and their success at the Big Sing. ([p.17](#))

I hope there will be something for everyone in this edition, and something you can share with someone else.

## **Fergus Reeves Trust – calling for any nominations for support**

*by Nicola O’Keefe*

**Did you know that our Parish administers a trust to support the training, development and education of our aspiring priests?**

Are you, or someone you know, considering a call to the Priesthood?

Are you seeking training or support for Lay Ministry within the Archdiocese?

Are you in need of support to enable you to take your next step on your journey?

If you would like to make an application to the Trust, please contact the Finance Committee via the Parish office, providing a short brief of your aspirations, the support you are seeking and how the Trust’s contribution will meet one of these objectives:

- Training or support of candidates for the Priesthood of the Archdiocese of Wellington
- Fostering promotion or encouragement of vocations to the Priesthood of the Archdiocese of Wellington
- Postgraduate training for development of priests for the Archdiocese
- Religious or education purposes of the Archdiocese.

*Please note: only candidates currently within NZ and connected to the Wellington Archdiocese can be considered for support from the Trust.*

### **Remember that you can access *Stories of Hope* online**

The parish web site: [ourladyofhope.org.nz](http://ourladyofhope.org.nz) has the latest magazine edition and an archive of all past editions and weekly newsletters.

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 the email link as well as their printed copy. [ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz) or 232 5611**

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

## “Please put your own oxygen mask on first...”

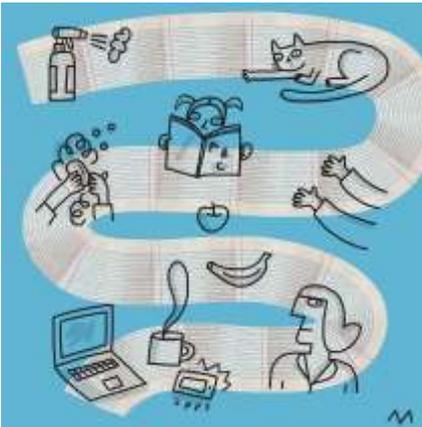
by Ian Munro



Yesterday we received an email from friends in Shanghai. We’ve been following their stresses and strains, and those of other overseas friends, as they’ve coped with seemingly endless lockdowns, quarantines, home isolations, illness and death. It’s been tough.

In Shanghai, they had just learnt that they would be getting their freedom in a few days after a 10-week lockdown inside their apartment within a residential compound. They’re looking forward to being able to eat properly again, getting some fresh air and exercise and letting the kids loose. Or better, sending them to their grandparents to give themselves a break.

Our English friends have probably had it the toughest. They faced, before vaccines were available, the early Covid variants including repeat infections, while juggling study, working from home and home-schooling for more than a year in their cramped terrace house. They were also unable to be with a dying family member or hold a funeral.



The Sydney parents are, tongue in cheek, considering billing the education authorities for services rendered. Their experience was a little closer to that of New Zealand parents. Schools were fully or partially open and closed erratically for months. Once school was eventually back, the kids brought Covid home. More

home isolation. More home-schooling. Add to that the fact that Sydney, at time of writing, had had only 48 days (out of 170) without rain so far this year and the parental despair becomes palpable.

### **It's never easy**

This got me reflecting on how hard it can be being a parent, even at the best of times, let alone during a pandemic. It can feel a bit like running a marathon that lasts upwards of 18 years and maybe longer. A treadmill of work, work, work and give, give, give can mean that each day ends in exhaustion and, by the time the kids are in bed, that’s about all you feel ready for too.

*Mr Mouthy* and *Miss Smarty* can push us to the edge of real anger and even thoughts of grievous bodily harm. Oh, how nice would be a bit of peace and quiet! But, no, there's still stuff to be done. And it can take its toll on our emotional wellbeing and our marital relationships.

It always seems to be the lack of time. Time is one of the most important things we can give our youngsters, but time is also one of the most important things needed to keep ourselves together and our relationship in good shape in order to last the distance with everybody intact.

As Pope Francis has said on many occasions, there is no such thing as the perfect family. *"We have no perfect parents, we are not perfect, do not get married to a perfect person, neither do we have perfect children."*<sup>(1)</sup> And while family life is filled with many beautiful moments, *"if love is missing, joy is missing, nothing is fun"*.<sup>(2)</sup>

### **Making sure our mask is securely on first**

I'm reminded of the pre-flight briefing when the cabin attendant tells us about the oxygen masks and making sure we have our own mask in place first before putting the mask on our child. This has always struck me as a great piece of parenting advice.

Parents need their own 'emotional oxygen' to be able to function well as caregivers. As Pope Francis sees it, parents need to be able *"to talk things over, to embrace leisurely. To share plans, to listen to one another and gaze in each other's eyes, to appreciate one another and to build a stronger relationship. Sometimes the frenetic pace of our society and the pressures of the workplace create problems. At other times, the problem is lack of quality time together"*.<sup>(3)</sup>

### **Recharging physically, emotionally and spiritually**

Francis says there are practical things that can be done to create some meaningful moments together - simple ways in which we can recharge physically, emotionally and spiritually so that we can cope better with the ups and downs of family life.

Such simple ways could include a night away without the children, or something like dinner out and a movie, even though Netflix might seem less of a hassle at the end of a long day.

Turning the television and devices off and planning something together, playing cards or listening to 'our kind' of music helped us keep connected and it can be reinvigorating to have some other parents around for a childfree meal.



## Stories of Hope

Whatever is or isn't possible, Pope Francis' bottom line is to at least try and take a few minutes each day to really talk to each other in private, to be present to one another, to pray together, to make the opportunity to *"be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving of one another."*<sup>(4)</sup> I would add, 'and laugh together'.

Getting that privacy away from the youngsters can be hard. Having a room, maybe just the bedroom, that's designated a private space helps - no kids or their toys except by invitation. They don't need to have the run of every room in the house. *"We need these moments of cherishing God's gifts and renewing our zest for life."*<sup>(5)</sup>

If we see our children as blessings or gifts from God, then it's important to keep ourselves match-fit and our relationship well-nourished so that we can last the distance in doing them justice. If we want our youngsters to be happy and healthy and coping, they need us to be happy and healthy and coping too.

*"Let us ask the Lord to give this courage to all fathers and mothers, as he gave it to Joseph.... Joseph prayed, worked, and loved — three beautiful things for parents: to pray, to work, and to love — and because of this he always received what he needed to face life's trials. Let us entrust ourselves to him and to his intercession."*<sup>(6)</sup>

### References:

1. *World Communications Day address*, Cuba, September 22, 2015
2. *Address to The Pilgrimage to St. Peter's Tomb*, October, 2013
3. *Amoris Laetitia*, 224, Pope Francis, March 2016
4. *John 13:34-35*
5. *Amoris Laetitia*, 226
6. *Pope Francis's weekly audience*, January 26, 2022

## Mass Times in Nearby Parishes

### Our Lady of Hope parish times highlighted.

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

**Note:** Ohariu parish masses may be replaced by Liturgy of the Word

## Our Lady of Hope Sacramental Programme 2021

*by Marie Andrewartha*

Each year our children continue their faith journey through the Parish Sacramental Programme. This includes making their First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion.

We began the year with an afternoon for all the families. After a shared lunch, we watched a video on Baptism and then shared Baptism memories. Some whanau showed their Baptism photos and brought their white gowns and candles. The children made prayer cards for parishioners to take home - it was wonderful to know that our parish community were praying for us.

The afternoon was a special time to get to know each other. Thank you if you were able to lift our children in your prayers (we certainly needed them!) The Covid lockdowns and different 'levels' meant that there were major disruptions to our programme. Parents had copies of the sessions and were able to finish them at home with their children.

Our whanau and candidates persevered and they finally received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion together in March this year! Cardinal John Dew gave Father Rico permission to celebrate the Confirmation Mass and administer the Sacrament and we were able to have two Masses so that each candidate could bring 5 guests!

Father Rico presented each candidate with a medal, certificate and a Mass book. We were not able to have the usual party afterwards but the children all received special 'Goodie Bags.'



A big thank to Father Rico and Jane Lee, our Parish secretary, who helped us navigate the many changes! Thank you also to the Principals of our Parish schools, Philippa Matla at St Pius X, and Joan Woods at St Francis Xavier, who are always so supportive of our programme.



**Children who received their first communion and were confirmed 26/27 March**  
Harry Anderton, Evie Burvill, Liyam Cervantes, Ezekiel Detera, Emily Hamdan, Andrea Kamalraj, Indira Lafaele, Jacob Lunny, Knight Perrot-Lealamanua, Brian Riley, Nathaniel Siave, Kartini Singson, Faith Bermudez, Kyan Calixto, Tamerah De Guzman, Mikio Dhingsa, William Hamdan, Maddox Lafaele, Sophia Lopez, Cyrus Perez, Aagesh Rameshkumar, Lukas Shore, Arief Singson, Natalia Xalxo  
*Our Lady of Fatima candidates above. St Pius X candidates below*



## My Family's Experience

by Monique Lopez



The uncertainty brought by COVID-19 caused unpredictable challenges that no matter how organised a planner you are, you will still be rattled by their chaotic impact. Our parish sacramental programme was one that suffered much.

**Preparation Sessions** First of the major challenges we had to deal with as parents was to conduct the Confirmation and the First Communion sessions at home for our child. In spite of being spoon-fed with the parent information booklet provided, I still doubted myself, whether I can

effectively prepare my daughter, Sophia for such an important and solemn occasion in her life! But then one realization struck me as I was praying and preparing myself. *I can never do this alone. I am never good enough on my own. Yes, I have gifts and talents, but they're not mine, I'm merely an instrument – a vessel, a messenger, a follower, a servant, of the One to Whom I plead never to let go of my hand.*

So I just closed my eyes, knocked at my heart where He is as I repeated part of my daily prayer: *May Your Words come out of my mouth, O Lord, not mine.* I added: *May Your Wisdom enlighten and inspire Sophia's heart and mind.* (Sophia is a Greek word which means wisdom)

I knew and felt that in all of our sessions, it wasn't me at all who was doing all the talking, explaining, and answering Sophia's pressing questions, (on many topics). It was the Holy Spirit (as always) who was doing all the work through me!

**The Postponements** First Reconciliation was postponed due to the sudden lockdown in August, so we arranged for a private confession in late October. Sophia was so nervous that we thought the best way to support her was that we all do it with her, too. It was such an inspiring experience, that it became a beautiful start for our family to make this a regular family celebration.

More challenging was the postponement of Confirmation and First Communion. After going through the preparation sessions, it was announced that they would

not happen until the following year. This crushed my heart for I was looking forward to Sophia receiving her First Communion in time for her birthday on 12th December and more importantly, at Christmas. I worried tirelessly. Will it be a 'happy' Christmas with all the restrictions? My mind was clouded with judgements. My heart was sad.

And then it hit me - the true root cause of all this misery! *It's not the government, or the archdiocese, our church leaders or her ministers, it's not the Aucklanders, or the travellers, and certainly not those who did or didn't believe in the vaccine. **The only real enemy to blame here was COVID-19.*** Once I started looking this way, it made all the difference. COVID-19 may have closed our church buildings, disrupted our church services, and created a lot of hurts within our parish. But it will never **ever** stop Christmas nor undermine our love for Jesus and for one another. We will forgive, we will hold on, we will survive, we will hope.

Early this year, it finally happened. Sophia received her First Communion and Confirmation on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2022. Before that day, our family held another 'family confession' to prepare for this blessed occasion.

**Our Family as a Domestic Church** Which leads me to this last challenge. With all the Covid mandates, we were unable to bring family, even Sophia's godparents, to attend her Confirmation and First Communion. We weren't even able to celebrate and share a special meal with them and our friends. We were stuck with doing most things only with our 'bubble'. This reminded me of how St. John Paul II repeatedly described the family as **a domestic church**. (As have Pope Francis and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.) So it is timely that as I write this, Pope Francis is closing the World Meeting of Families 2022 and has again delivered a very powerful message about the role of family in our church.

With my children completing all three Sacraments of Initiation, the responsibility of bringing them up and making sure they live up to these special graces they have received, relies more on us now as parents, rather than our church leaders or their R.E. teachers. All of us, by virtue of our own baptism, are part of God's covenant family. Thus, we also have a crucial role to play, as much as our church leaders do. Even if we have the best preachers or catechists in our church, without follow-up at home and showing our kids how to apply these teachings of Jesus in their daily life, it will be tough for them to appreciate and live them. I can already feel this lifetime of heavy load on my shoulders! Though I know I can only do so much, I am comforted by the truth that I and Stanley as Sophia's parents will never be alone. The Holy Trinity time and time again will be with us. And with that confidence, let me share with you another prayer that I pray every day.

*May God the Father bless us, may God the Son heal us,  
may God the Holy Spirit enlighten us, and give us eyes to see with,  
ears to hear with, hands to do the work of God with,  
feet to walk with, and mouth to preach the salvation with.  
May the Angel of Peace watch over us and lead us at last,  
by the Lord's gift to the kingdom. Amen*

(from a 13<sup>th</sup> century Dominican blessing)

## Never say Never ...

*by Bernie Griffin*



*Yvonne and Fred doing dishes together*

Tawa parishioner Yvonne Browning lives her life in tandem with a world beset by mystification, obfuscation and misunderstanding. Fear, even.

*"It's often described as Never, Never Land," she says with a wry smile.*

Yvonne is talking about the world of dementia. A world she knows intimately because her husband, Fred, has dementia.

*"Our life at home as a family, socially and to the outside world can seem amazingly normal," Yvonne says. "But dementia has impacted our lives dramatically, as it does with anyone, but there are effective ways of dealing with it."*

Dementia is an umbrella term for a number of neurological diseases that cause cognitive changes. Yvonne and Fred are among those facing it head on. They knowingly and openly deal with it and are prepared to discuss its complex issues.

Fred is physically strong and active and enjoys a lively conversation. Readily, he'll disclose the fact he's got Alzheimer's, much to the surprise of those who would never have guessed.

*"I don't mind people knowing," he says, candidly.*

## Stories of Hope

Yvonne was an occupational therapist by profession and in medical language describes dementia as a form of 'cognitive impairment', meaning something adverse is happening with the brain.

She is realistic. *"Fred and I are aware of the fact that his dementia will eventually get worse ... there's no cure. Not yet."*

But there is hope and there are accepted ways of dealing with it, even slowing it down in many cases. Yvonne and Fred are proof there is reason for optimism. Through their Catholic faith, their personal and family relationship, their teamwork and through surrounding support ... they cope and enjoy life.

They've known each other since they were teenagers in Otago.

Fred comes from the small Central Otago town of Omakau and left school after fifth form (year 11) to start a career in banking. He got a job with the BNZ in Cromwell. It was there his eye was taken by a 'vivacious, mini-skirted paper-girl', who delivered the Otago Daily Times into the bank each day. One thing led to another...

Their wedding in Cromwell in 1972 became a compromise. Yvonne's father, a staunch Mason, vowed he would never step inside a Catholic church.

The ceremony took place in St. John's Presbyterian Church, jointly officiated by Catholic priest, Fr. Tom Fahey, and Presbyterian minister, Rev. Neil Lambie.

Fred is the 'born' Catholic and Yvonne the convert. Later this year they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Their faith has been a constant over the years, through family life and raising three sons, membership of numerous church groups and community organisations, widespread overseas travel and now through the demands and intricacies of dementia. They go to Mass every day they possibly can and find the church community to be a welcoming and energising force.



Yvonne believes stability is important for people with dementia. But so is variety. *"Variety is good for the brain, don't just concentrate on one particular skill or interest."*

## **That's where YODAT comes into picture.**

YODAT stands for Younger Onset Dementia Aotearoa Trust. Yvonne and Fred have helped in setting up a Wellington group which meets throughout the year in a modified house in Thorndon.

It is the only such group so far formed in New Zealand. Fred attends YODAT twice a week, often venturing there alone. He says there isn't too much wrong with him mentally.

*"My memory's good," he says. "I can get around alright and I can do things."*

Yvonne thinks otherwise. She worries sometimes. She knows the signs. She also knows the YODAT sessions have helped Fred, in addition to other day-to-day organised activities they do.

On the question of the YODAT concept, Yvonne says seven per cent of people with dementia are under 65 and existing services do not necessarily meet the younger person's needs. Dementia starts before anyone is aware of it and with better diagnostic tools these days, is being picked up in people still in their 40s.

*"To join YODAT you must be younger than 65 but you can continue as a member when you get past that age, as long as YODAT still meets your needs."* Yvonne and other volunteers work a roster. Two coordinators are paid. The group carries out Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, which is planned, graduated neurological activities and discussions. *"It's aimed to provide fun and to exercise the brain -- and it works."*

Dementia it seems will continue to challenge the medical experts right across the spectrum for some time yet. However, Yvonne says dementia has another aspect to it not always considered.



*"What day is it?"*

*"It's today," squeaked Piglet.*

*"My favorite day," said Pooh.*

*"People can be paranoid about it, understandably so. But others see a beauty in it. Strange, I know. Not the Never Never Land of myth but a kind of serenity."*

In the meantime, Yvonne will continue her daily routines, quietly and calmly, in the shadow of dementia and an unpredictable future. Fred, she says, will continue to live in the moment.

Contact info: [yodat.org.nz](http://yodat.org.nz) Ph. 0204 157 9005 email: [yodatunder65@gmail.com](mailto:yodatunder65@gmail.com)

## Family Prayer Group

by *Simon Rayner*



I am part of a small group of families who meet each month for a time of prayer and fellowship.

The initial idea was to have a group where families could pray together and explore our faith, all in an environment where children could be accommodated, see their parents praying and sometimes join in a little with the songs etc. We began back in December 2020 with group of five families and also a single person. We had planned to begin, get the ball rolling and then invite other families to join us. At first we were meeting in homes and then we started using the school hall, but COVID has meant that we returned to meeting in our homes and expanding has not really been an option, because of the limited space in homes whilst 'social distancing',

Our gatherings are quite dynamic, often with 15 or so children occupying themselves, and floating in and out while we adults talk, sing, pray, and share. We have been able to lift each other's needs up before the Lord and share our faith in organised faith discussion topics and grow to know each other better in fellowship over a tea and coffee.

In reality, the meetings have varied quite a bit each month according to availability of families, as well as Covid restrictions. We are looking forward to some more settled and healthier times. And then we will see what the Lord has planned next. We are not yet quite sure about how we will grow and accommodate a slightly larger meeting.

A large family home works well just now, but it is a big step up to use the school hall. I am sure God has a plan! We could accommodate, even now, one or two more families.

So if you are interested please call Mary Rayner on (04) 232 2088.



## Bishop Viard College at the Big Sing

by Sammy Seau  
(TiC Music and Performing Arts at BVC)



BVC Choir at a practice session in school

Bishop Viard College Choir recently participated in the Wellington regional stage of the festival of the NZ Choral Federation **Big Sing** competition - an annual event for NZ Secondary Schools. The competition returned this year after Covid cancellations.

Our College entered a 50-strong student chorus who represented our College community with gusto, pride and joy as we sang our two pieces for adjudication by renown NZ Choral director, Dr Karen Grylls.

Our choir were blessed to walk away with an Adjudicator's Choice Award for their rendition of *Joyful, Joyful* (made famous in *Sister Act 2*) with soloists, trios and musicians collaborating in putting on a performance to remember.

We thank all our supporters near and far for the prayers, thoughts and words of encouragement to get our students to the Big Sing stage. And we hope the support continues for the years to come. Onwards and upward!

*Editor's note:* Many congratulations to the BVC choir for this achievement in their first-time entry for this competition. Of the 29 choirs taking part this year, three received a special 'Adjudicator's Choice' Award, which was awarded to choirs who 'sang with heart'. Incidentally, all three of these were to Catholic Colleges, the others being St, Bernard's, Lower Hutt and St Pat's, Town.

## **Consecration of the World (*especially Russia and Ukraine*) to the Immaculate Heart of Mary - 25th March 2022**

On the feast of the Annunciation this year, Pope Francis consecrated the World, and especially Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Following the invasion of Ukraine, and also as a completion of the requests of Our Lady at Fatima in 1917, Pope Francis called for the world to be united in prayer for the conversion of hearts for peace in our world and an end to the war in Ukraine.

In the Basilica of St Peter in Rome, at the site of apparitions in Fatima, and in churches around the world, there was prayer on 25th March, the feast of the Annunciation.

The Pope had invited all Catholics around the world to spend that Friday as a day of special prayer for peace in Ukraine. Wellington Archdiocese, including Our Lady of Hope parish, answered that call.

Our parish joined in this world-wide prayer and at the end of Mass on that Friday, parishioners joined with Fr Rico in praying the Rosary and the prayers of consecration.



**“Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart**  
we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church  
and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine.  
Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love.  
Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the  
**world.”**

Part of the prayer of Pope Francis on 25 March 2022

***From the Act of Consecration: (on 25th March)***

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace ....

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the 'Fiat', on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

Full prayer here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Prayer-of-Act-of-Consecration-for-Ukraine-and-Russia.pdf>



## For a Synodal Church

by Ian Hamilton & Sr Francine McGovern sm



Synod  
2021  
2023

Pope Francis has called for a Synod of Bishops in Rome in 2023. This is different from previous Synods in that the Pope initiated a 2-year process to discover and listen to the thoughts of all Church members.

*“Synodality starts with hearing from the whole People of God. A Church that teaches must be firstly a Church that listens. Consulting all members of the Church is vital because, as the Second Vatican Council reminded us, the faithful as a whole are anointed by the Holy Spirit...”* Pope Francis

*“The purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but ‘to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands’ ...”* (PD32)

*“By walking together, and reflecting together on the path taken, the Church will be able to learn from what she will be experiencing, which processes can help her to live communion, to realize participation, to open herself to the mission.”* Synod.va

***Consulting all members of the Church is vital because, ...  
the faithful as a whole are anointed by the Holy Spirit...”***

### **Synod 2023 in our Parish**

A simplified form of the Synod processes was held in the Parish from 21 - 26 March 2022. We had 5 sessions of approximately 90 minutes for each session, with participants attending just one of those sessions on the day that suited them.

The participants were asked to respond to the big question:

**“How do Catholics journey together? How might we do better?”**

This, in its turn, addressed ten key areas.

Before their respective sessions, participants were required to study the booklet of ten questions addressing these key areas of our parish life so that they could adequately respond to the ‘big question’.

Each session was made up of three parts. In the first part, participants each shared what they felt was important for future developments and changes. They listened attentively to each other with an open heart to understand each other's point of view.

The second part was to rethink what had been said in the light of the various points that the participants had put forward and to develop these various viewpoints.

The third part was to together sum up and come to a consensus on what had been shared in the group. The moderator then wrote a summary of what was said for each group, which was in the following week offered for consultation and modification, if required.

**The main ideas that emerged were: -**

1. Let us be more open and welcoming to each other by moving out of our comfort zones and reaching out to peoples of all ages and cultures. Be prepared to make an active and positive contribution.
2. Ongoing formation in the Church is vital to our spiritual development. Not one-off events but regular events by well-prepared lay and ordained people on a variety of topics that keep the adult and the youth community informed and spiritually enriched.
3. In group participation we will share our spiritual journeys in the light of the Gospel and teachings of the Church, where we really listen to each other and share our stories and experiences of our daily lives.
4. There are quite a number of groups in our parish. It would be appreciated if these parish groups updated the community on a regular basis so that we all know what is happening in our parish. This in turn could inspire others to step up to grow the groups and/or create a diversity of other faith/life sharing groups.
5. The group agreed that confirmation of our children would be better in their mid-teen years so that they are aware of their choice and also to help them be a part of a faith group in this challenging period of their lives.
6. How can we move forward with all these recommendations? How and when could this be achieved?

These are a few of the ideas and desires that were shared and are representative of the desire to see a greater sense of communitarian engagement and improvement in what we do.

## My Time with NET - can you help?

by Anna Rayner



Hello I'm Anna, a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima/Our Lady of Hope for 20 years, since as long as I can remember!

I have been volunteering with NET Ministries for the last 6 months in the Hamilton Diocese, ministering to young people in Catholic schools and parishes

throughout Hamilton, Tauranga, Taupo, Rotorua and Gisborne.

I went into this year optimistic about the mission of NET to encourage young people to love Jesus and embrace the church, but even so, I have still been shocked (in a good way) by the impact I've seen it have in young people's lives. My team and I have encountered well over 1000 young people already, and I have had too many conversations to count with students about their lives and faith.



*Anna (far right) with some of NET team*

In the last few months, I have seen God work powerfully through the ministry that our team is able to offer. After we run a day for students, we ask for feedback, and the number of students who say they felt closer to Jesus through their experience is incredible to me. We meet many students who do not believe in Jesus or have any faith. They have shared that they felt welcomed and loved by the team and, as a result, were open to what we had to share and the 'idea' of Jesus. It has been a very fulfilling, exciting time and I'm looking forward to what is to come.

I have been blessed by some very generous sponsors, but currently I have \$2,000 left to raise for this year of mission. If you are in a position to support me, please email me: [rayneranna4@gmail.com](mailto:rayneranna4@gmail.com)

Or you can go directly to: [netministries.com.au/sponsorship](https://netministries.com.au/sponsorship)

If you enter my name in the 'sponsorship for' box, your contribution will go straight into my sponsorship fund at NET. God bless you all.

This parish has been a home for me and I look forward to being back.

## Receiving Communion at Home

### Are you stuck at home and missing the Sacraments?



Online Mass via television or web site is a great help, but it is not the same as receiving the Eucharist, our food of life. Our parish has special ministers of the Eucharist who visit parishioners in their homes after Mass on Sundays to take communion and share a short liturgy with those who are unable to come to the church.

This can be for a short time following an accident or hospitalisation, or long-term because of chronic illness, frailty, or significant immune-compromised situations (*Covid protection*).

It is NOT for those who would just prefer to stay safe at home, but are well/safe enough to attend Mass in the church.

All those who visit are fully vaccinated and wear a mask when visiting.

In Tawa, visits are after 8:30 mass (between 9:30 and 11am) or after 10:30 mass (between 11:30 and 1pm).

If you would like to receive these visits, or to talk about the options, please do phone Patricia Budding for visits in Tawa: Phone: 232 6388 or 021 100 4516

Titahi Bay parishioners, phone the parish office: 232 5611 to request visits.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is also available in your home for those in the same situation. Please phone Fr Rico to organise a visit. Phone: 021 205 6476

## Finance committee – Urgent call for new members

### Would you consider volunteering an hour of your time once every 4-6 weeks to be on our finance committee?

Due to recent and coming resignations of long-standing members, by the end of this year we will likely be in the position of having *just one standing member* on the committee, therefore we urgently need more members.

If you operate a budget at work, if you have property maintenance expertise, or if you bring a wealth of practical common sense, you could be perfect for our committee. **Please speak to Fr Rico or one of the committee to find out more.**

## Events in Our Lady of Hope Parish

*by Kingsley Ihejirika*



Our progress as a people or individuals is hinged on the decisions that we make and the events that happen to or around us. This is true, even in our community life as a parish and the people of God. We have indeed been shaped by the decisions of committed men, women, boys, and girls who devote their time, energy, and resources to see the parish move forward. Events (COVID-19 and attendant restrictions) in the last couple of years have been spectacular, but we as a parish have weathered the storm and have come out better. Let us consider a few happenings in the parish that support this allusion.

With Fr Marlon leaving early this year to go to Nelson, the Filipino Chaplaincy quickly rallied the support of Filipino priests in the Wellington region to take over the Chaplaincy duties. Recently, new heaters were installed in Our Lady of Fatima Church. Unlike the previous heaters, a remote is not required to turn them on; they are NZ-made and have a guarantee. The ongoing renovation at St Francis Xavier and the newly installed fencing at St Pius X are testaments to our resilience as a people. In April, the Parish Synod Group completed their assignment, and a report has been sent to the Archdiocese.

It is even more heartwarming that we can now gather, sing, and praise the Name of our God as one blessed ecclesia. We cannot overemphasize the importance of our community life where everyone is passionately devoting their time, energy and resources to the growth of the parish and the spread of the Gospel. How good it is for brothers and sisters to fellowship together (Psalm 133:1).

## Felicja Juchnowicz - An inspiring life

*by Kingsley Ihejirika*

Felicja Juchnowicz (nee Nadolska) was born in Lublin, Poland in 1935. The circumstances of World War II forced her to be separated from her family. She, alongside many other children, sailed to New Zealand and she soon found herself in the Polish Children's Camp at Pahiataua. In 1949 she became a boarder at Sacred Heart College, Wanganui. At first, she found life there difficult, lonely and uncomfortable due to being separated from her family and the initial language barrier. However, looking back, Felicja considered her time and study at Sacred Heart College to have laid a good foundation for her future. After gaining her School Certificate, she left the school and went to live at the Polish Girls' Hostel in Lyall Bay.



Felicja attended Wellington Teachers' College from 1954 to 1955, where she studied hard and was determined to succeed. Her financial situation was difficult then, as she earned £22 a month, from which £12 was paid for board and the rest had to cover books, tram and bus fares, and clothing. To supplement her income, she went to work at the Steamship Company laundry in Evans Bay. The work was difficult, steamy, and exhausting.

She worked full-time during school holidays, part-time during terms. The work gave her some extra money and even more determination to succeed in her studies.

By the end of 1955, Felicja had successfully completed her two-year course and felt a great accomplishment at qualifying as a primary school teacher. Her first position was in Masterton West School, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Felicja taught at different schools throughout her life. When her own children left school, her ambition returned, and she went to Victoria University and graduated with the Diploma of Teaching English as a Second Language. She also obtained an Advanced Diploma in Teaching through Wellington Teachers' College.

Felicja (aged 20) met Waclaw Juchnowicz (aged 23) They were married on 2nd June 1956 at St Patrick's Church in Masterton. They had two sons, Edward and Stanley, in Masterton. Waclaw was working in Wellington and commuting daily. As a result, the family moved to Tawa in the early 1960s, where they had two more children, Barbara and Andrew.

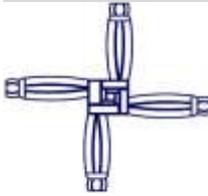
Felicja and Waclaw were both devoted to the Catholic Church and attended Our Lady of Fatima church weekly. On special occasions such as Easter, Christmas, and Polish holidays, they would attend a Polish Mass. This was a chance to catch up with all their friends and their families as well. Felicja sang in the parish choir for many years and also volunteered in varying capacities in the parish.

Sadly, Waclaw passed away in May 2008 and in August 2020, Felicja lost one of her sons, Ed, to cancer. (*Ed was on the parish Finance Committee for very many years*) Her faith in God and commitment to the House of God played a phenomenal role in how she developed as a growing child, away from home, family and friends and how she managed the loss of her loved ones. Her life is truly an inspiration.

*Felicja is now in a care home in Waikanae.*

## St Francis Xavier School -

by Joan Woods (Principal)



### Term 2 News

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

This term the children at St Francis Xavier School have enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a range of activities. We have continued to work around the reroofing of the schools main building and currently have two classes working out of the school hall.

The building project also includes the replacement of aging heat pumps, updating lighting and the replacement of external doors and windows.

One of the term highlights was the whole school's visit to Wellington Zoo. The school is taking part in the Zoo's *Bush Builders* education programme. The children had the opportunity to walk around the zoo looking at the animals and took part in lessons about finding small bugs and insects and identify different plants. Following the children's visit to the zoo we are looking forward to zoo staff coming out to school next term and sharing with the children how they can help look after our local environment to protect the wildlife we have in our grounds.

We have enjoyed Father Rico's visits to school. Father was able to be part of liturgies with classes he and the teachers had prepared. The children also enjoyed Father talking and answering questions they had prepared for him.





Two teams of children have played netball at Ngati Toa each Saturday. The St Francis Aces and the St Francis Stars have enjoyed playing in the competition against other schools and have had some great results.

We have been very fortunate to have wonderful parents who have coached and managed the teams.

Our school cross country event was held in May. All children participated and it was great to see the parents supporting and cheering the children on. A group of children then went on to represent St Francis Xavier at the Tawa Zone Cross Country event.

Eight of our children were then selected to represent Tawa at the Wellington Regional event and Indira went on to the Greater Wellington Regional event at Harcourt Part in Upper Hutt.

Our Matariki celebrations were a great opportunity for families join us at school. During the evening, classrooms were open for families to visit. Each classroom had a different Matariki activity to share.

Our Parents and Friends group provided a sausage sizzle while parents and children enjoyed the classroom activities and looked for the Matariki stars in the night sky.



## Parish Finances Update

By Nicola O'Keefe

**The Parish Finance Committee needs your help!** Our Parish finances are not in the best shape, after three years of continued disruption, and rising costs, we are now seeing some significant impacts on our finances. In almost every month of 2022 our expenditure has exceeded our income, and we are currently showing a \$17,000 loss for the year to date. When we compare this to the same period last year, while times were tough, we had a surplus of just over \$23,000.

These continued losses, mean the money held in our bank account is fast depleting. **If this trend continues, we will not have the cash needed to pay our bills.**

While we recognise the cost of everything is increasing at the moment, we would like to ask any families in our Parish who do not contribute regularly to the Parish collection or to the 'planned giving' scheme to consider joining these programmes. Every small contribution will make a real difference!

Secondly – do you have any suggestions for areas our Parish might be able to save some money? The committee have reviewed our expenses and have identified a limited number of ways we could save on expenses. However if you have any ideas, we would be very pleased to hear them. **Note: [financial report for last year is in the March SoH pages 24-25](#) [ourladyofhope.org.nz](http://ourladyofhope.org.nz) (look for Publication Archives)**

## Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

### Baptisms

Name of child	Parents	Date
Trevor Phillips		7 April 2022
Joanna Kochery Rino	Jubina Mathew & Rinomon Thomas	23 April 2022
Kian John Hayes Bocock	Juliet Leeming & Matthew Bocock	23 April 2022
Lois Mirana Reyes	Roudylynn & Rommel Reyes	14 May 2022
Lydia Tafili Naketoatama	Mai-Cheree Howard & Naketoatama Naketoatama	14 May 2022
Aneela-Rose Bond	Ellie & Peter Bond	21 May 2022
Rureta Tekena David Thompson	Erena Tekena & Mwea Thompson	22 May 2022
Bianca Isabel Mercado	April Beatriz & Bernard Mercado Jnr	12 June 2022
Belle Reremoana Fiu	Nadia Aiono & Herman Fiu	3 July 2022

## Deaths

Lafaele Peato Seu Iosefo Mapusua	6 January 2022
Trevor Hartley Phillips	8 April 2022
Dominique Pierre Jean Hawinkels	19 April 2022
Bernard Leo O'Callaghan	19 April 2022
Michael Joseph Wood	30 June 2022
Metita Chong Nee	5 July 2022
Arnel Galvan	6 July 2022
Mila Moredo	6 July 2022
Thomas Patrick Newell	6 July 2022

Long-time parishioners may remember the Doyle family, who were very involved with the parish for very many years. Ken and Fay retired to Kāpiti some years ago. Ken died a few years back and now Fay has died, on 4 June. Several OLoH parishioners attended her funeral at Our Lady of Kāpiti church.



### **Obituary for Thomas Newell** *by Kieran Newell*

Thomas Patrick Newell was born in Newtown, Wellington, in 1938, and died in Wellington Hospital on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Tom was educated in Marist Newtown Primary School and Saint Patrick's College Wellington where he graduated Dux of his year. He then went on to study Civil Engineering at Canterbury University.

He spent the 1960s in England building motorways, bridges and high-rise buildings. During those years he met and married his wife, Margaret.

Shortly after returning to Wellington, Tom joined the Wellington City Council, working there for 29 years. He then consulted for Spencer Holmes Ltd until his retirement.

An active member of the Our Lady of Fatima parish for over 50 years, he was also member of the Passionist Family Group.

The St Pat's motto, *Sectare Fidem*, (Hold fast to the faith) guided his life. Unwavering in his faith, he passed it on to his children and grandchildren.



## Stories of Hope

He actively stood up for Catholic values, writing submissions to Parliament when legislation on moral issues was being debated.

Always generous with his time, he served on the committees of St. Francis Xavier School and St. Patrick's College Wellington. The Wellington Irish Society also benefitted from Tom's generosity over many years. After the first Christchurch earthquake he offered his expertise, assessing damage to houses and other structures.

Tom had a keen intellect. He was a voracious reader, maintaining his interest in mathematics and making 3-dimensional mechanical puzzles. An accomplished card player, he regularly attended the Kapi Mana Bridge Club. He was also a keen gardener and skilled handyman.

Tom was deeply devoted to his family - to his wife Margaret, daughter Patricia, sons John and Kieran, and his eight grandchildren.

Tom will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.



If you are new to the parish, Welcome! Please introduce yourself to the celebrant, another parishioner, or call the parish office 9:30am -12:00pm Tuesday-Friday phone: (04) 232 5611 or email: [ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz)

### Current Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr Rico de la Torre - parish priest, Marie Prescott - chair; Telesia Alaimoana, Jane Bolton; Dorothy Jansen; Ray Lindsay; and Rupi Mapusua;

### Current Finance Committee Members

Fr Rico de la Torre - parish priest, Graeme Hansen - chair, Denise Dorman, Ted Gallen, Patrick McGill, Nicola O'Keeffe.

### Regular events

**Joshua Catholic Fellowship for Men**, Third Thurs. 7:30 pm, at Loaves & Fishes  
**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

**Other events:** check website calendar or newsletter: [www.ourladyofhope.org.nz](http://www.ourladyofhope.org.nz)

**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 web site: <http://ninness.co.nz>.

**Preparing your Funeral**

You are very likely aware that you can make arrangements to pre-pay your funeral and make various other practical arrangements.

Have you also thought about preparing your own funeral service? Doing so can take a burden off your family at what will be a stressful time for them. It also helps those who may not be familiar with current Catholic funeral traditions and ensures the readings and hymns are ones you would prefer.

A Catholic funeral service or a Requiem Mass is not the same as a secular memorial service. It is intended to be an opportunity to pray for the soul of the deceased and for comfort for the bereaved. There are only one or two short eulogies included. Longer sharing of memories from many friends and family can be done after the prayers at the Vigil service or at the Wake.

If you want help to prepare your funeral, there are resources available from the parish office and also if you search online for 'Catholic Funeral Planning'.

Make sure that your family have a copy of your plan and it can also be kept at the parish office.

**For further helpful information,** visit the Ninness Funeral Home website

**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 July

Wednesday – 31 August

Wednesday - 28 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](mailto:ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz) to remove



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