



Stories of HOPE

November 2022

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



“A Star is Born”

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, with no pictures, 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: 24th February 2023 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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From the Editor

by Jane Langham



Here we are approaching the end of a year that in some ways has been ‘back to normal’, whilst some things are still problematic and others will never be the same again.

When all around seems threatening and unknown, I take heart from St Paul’s words *“For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height nor depth, not any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:38-39)

There is also the fabled advice from a simple monk, who when asked what he would do if he knew the ‘End’ was coming today, replied “I would keep sweeping the floors, as that’s what my job is.” As we begin Advent, let us hope each of us is always prepared to meet our Saviour, whenever that may be.

Of special note this edition is the ‘Pride in Work’ certificate awarded to our parish secretary, Jane Lee ([p.12](#)). There is another account of parishioners’ service to the community, Rosemary and Tom’s volunteering with Meals on Wheels. ([P.13](#)) Prompted by the report in the last edition of Yvonne and Fred’s involvement with dementia support, Gabrielle tells us of her family’s journey through dementia, ([P.20](#)) and Teresa shares her Vocation Vacation journey with us. ([P.22](#))

There are several reports of great things happening in parish groups: White Sunday celebrations ([P.16](#)); Marian Mothers retreat ([P.14](#)) and the 20th birthday of the Over 60’s Lunch (P.9); plus the regular school reports ([P.24](#) & [26](#)) and other useful parish information.

Thanks to all the children who entered the [Christmas Art Competition](#). The winning entry by 7 year-old Hazel Lunny is on the front cover of this edition and the runner-up, winner of the 8+ age group, is Sophia Lopez. All the entries can be seen on the wooden doors near the back of the church over the Christmas period.

An aid in our Advent preparations could be Ian’s reflection on Listening. ([P.6](#)) Whilst this is primarily focussed on listening to God, it is also important to listen to other people, to give them the gift of our time by really paying attention to what they are saying. Not waiting for a chance to get our word in, or half-watching our phone or thinking about what we are going to do later. Both these actions (listening to God and to people) could be helpful for us to practice all the time.

I hope you will enjoy this edition and I wish you, your family and all your loved ones the joys and blessings of the Christmas season to come.

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Advent and Christmas Timetable

Thursday 15 December – Friday 23 December

7pm nightly Simbang Gabi Mass and fellowship
Our Lady of Fatima church, Tawa

Saturday 24 December

7pm Family Mass Our Lady of Fatima church, Tawa

12 midnight Christmas Mass Our Lady of Fatima church, Tawa

(Please note: there will be no 5:30pm Vigil Mass on 24 December)

Sunday 25 December

9am Christmas Day Mass
St Pius X church, Titahi Bay

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

Saturday 31 December

5:30pm Vigil Mass St Pius X church, Titahi Bay

Midnight Mass Our Lady of Fatima church, Tawa

Sunday 1 January

10:30am New Year's Day Mass
Our Lady of Fatima church, Tawa

Adoration

Finishes for 2022 at 5pm on Wednesday 21 December

Resumes on Wednesday 18 January after 9am Mass

Tuesday 20 December Children's Fun Morning - [details p.15](#)

10am-12:30pm Our Lady of Fatima church foyer

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To Listen is to be Silent

by Ian Munro



When I undertook my counsellor training, one of the core skills we were trained in was listening. It was drilled into us on a daily basis. While hearing and listening are used interchangeably, there is a subtle difference. Hearing is generally regarded as passive, while listening is active. We can hear someone without actually actively listening to what is being said. Maybe we're thinking of what we want to say next or have been distracted by something else happening around us. We effectively end up talking past one another.

As many a writer has pointed out, SILENT is an anagram of LISTEN. Lexicologically it's a coincidence, but an interesting one, especially for the makers of fridge magnets and posters. And for writers wanting to make a point about listening.

Matthew 7:24

It was a Gospel reading from Matthew back in June that brought these thoughts about listening to mind: *"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."*

It had me considering how often during Mass do I 'listen' and how often does my mind wander off to other things. Do we sometimes find ourselves mindlessly reciting, by rote, words over-familiar to us while we make a mental list of what we need to get ready for a new week of work or school? Or think about what we're going to have for lunch later? Or engage with the cute baby in the row in front.

In the parable of the sower and the seed, or Word, Jesus talks about four different types of listeners: there are the ones who reject the seed altogether – they let the Word of God go in one ear and out the other; there are the ones who don't allow the Word fully to take root; those who don't tend it and don't nourish it and it gets lost amongst the 'weeds of life'; and those who do listen and nurture the Word, allowing it to grow and flourish and transform them.¹

Listening with the "ear of the heart"

This then got me thinking about prayer. If, as it's been said, prayer is listening to God listening to us, then the question that comes to my mind is, how often am I truly listening? Or are God and I mostly talking past each other?

Earlier this year, Pope Francis talked about listening with the "ear of the heart".

“On one hand, then, God always reveals himself by communication freely, and on the other hand, man and woman are asked to tune in, to be willing to listen. ... Saint Augustine used to encourage listening with the heart (corde audire), to receive words not outwardly through the ears, but spiritually in our hearts: ‘Do not have your heart in your ears, but your ears in your heart’.”²

The challenge then is to tune in through the static of our noisy environment to God’s voice deep inside us, deep in our heart. To filter out the internal and external chatter of our lives.

The imperceptible whisper



“Lord, hear my prayer,” we ask but do we then wait for an answer before moving on to the next prayer or on with the clamour of our daily lives? Have we really listened? Have we even been truly silent long enough to do so?

After all, God doesn’t speak to us in a booming voice from on high. “The kingdom of God comes quietly and unobtrusively and we can only gather its seeds when, like the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 19:11-12), we enter into the depths of our soul and are open to the imperceptible whisper of the divine breeze.”³

Unsurprisingly, much has been written about silence and prayer and discernment, however, it is this piece written by 19th century Danish theologian, Søren Kierkegaard, that really resonates with me. He wrote that, as he found he had less and less to say and began to listen, he discovered in the resulting silence the voice of God.

*As my prayer became more attentive and inward
I had less and less to say.
I finally became completely silent.
I started to listen –
which is even further removed from speaking.
I first thought that praying entailed speaking.
I then learnt that praying is hearing,
not merely being silent.
This is how it is.
To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking.
Prayer involves becoming silent,
and being silent,
and waiting until God is heard. 4*

I'll leave the last word to Pope John Paul II:

*"... only in silence does one succeed in hearing, in the depth of
one's conscience, the voice of God..."*

Footnotes:

1. *Mark 4:13-20*

2. [Message of Pope Francis for the 56th World Day of Social Communications, Rome, 24 January 2022](#)

3. [Message of the Holy Father for the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 4 December, 2017](#)

4. *Søren Kierkegaard's Writings, XVIII, pp. 11-12*

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"It is better in prayer to have a heart
without words than words without heart."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Over Sixties Luncheon celebrates 20th Birthday

By Eileen Mackey

On Tuesday 6th August there was a great deal of chatter and laughter in the foyer of Our Lady of Fatima Church as the parish's over-sixty folk celebrated 20 years of monthly Luncheons.

For this memorable occasion we were served with a special meal of mini quiches, salad, as well as Father John's specialty - chicken croquettes, followed by chocolates and a special birthday cake made by Tineke. This was accompanied by a glass of bubbly grape juice and tea or coffee.



Cutting the Cake - Fr Rico and Fr John

As the meal was in progress, a selection of photos taken at the luncheons from the early days up until the present was projected onto a screen plainly visible for everyone to see. It was interesting to see faces and entertainment scenes from the past which brought back happy memories to many of us.

After the first course, Tineke gave a talk on the history of the luncheon, how it started and how it progressed over the years. Following over page are some excerpts, with adaptations, from her talk.

Tineke's Talk: Some of you will remember a good friend of mine, Ricky Faber. When she was in her early 70's, she enjoyed going to a monthly luncheon organized by the Anglican Church, held in their Linden church, St. Peter's. She twice asked me why the Catholic Church didn't have a luncheon for its older parishioners. I responded by telling her that I did not have time to organize and run such an event.

However, she persisted and asked me a third time. This time I gave in and went to see Father Penders, who was the parish priest at the time. His response was very positive. He thought that it was certainly something that we could introduce. So now I was in it!! But where to start!!!

I relied on Ricky to explain to me how it was done at St Peter's. She told me that they served sandwiches and biscuits. Ricky offered to help to make the sandwiches and to serve the food. Then Evelyn came on board to help her. I liked baking, so that part of it was no problem and I had flowers in the garden to decorate each table. Others offered to help in the kitchen with the serving. A team was born! All in all, a good start.

To create a welcoming atmosphere, we borrowed tablecloths from the Catholic Women's League and used red plastic party plates for the sandwiches. Any money left over from the \$2.50 koha, after the purchase of food, was used to purchase utensils, vases, jugs, sugar bowls, china etc as well as material for making tablecloths. We visited the Warehouse and many second-hand shops looking for bargains! This is how we managed to have all the items for the beautiful setting you see here today.

Initially, there was very little interest. So, I started to approach people and was surprised to learn that those who qualified felt that they were too young, even though some of those I approached were over eighty! (*In those early days it was called 'The luncheon for the not so young'. This was later changed to 'The Over Sixties Luncheon'*). My response was that when they thought that they were old enough to come the luncheon would not be there at all, so they came along to please me.

Our first luncheon was a great success with 23 parishioners sitting down to enjoy great food and conversation. Ricky greeted each one of them at the door when they arrived giving them a welcoming hug and a name tag. Father Penders stood up at one point during the lunch and asked for volunteers to phone people up each month and give them a personal invitation to come. This also had the added advantage of letting the team know how many to cater for and how many places to set at the tables. Betty Durr and Sylvia McGill put up their hands and from that time on did exactly that. Their husbands, Gerry and Patrick took on the responsibility of

providing transport for those who needed it.

It was at the first luncheon that the idea of providing entertainment was born. Mary Coughlan had brought an apron with her that had a poem about whiskey printed on it. Mary, with her broad Scottish accent, gave a great rendition of the poem, then Tom Keogh, in his broad Irish brogue and Irish wit, stood up and proceeded to tell Irish jokes. Thus, a happy atmosphere was created, and entertainment became an integral part of the Luncheon.

There have been several changes as the years have rolled by. Initially the first luncheon of the year was held in March and the last in December. Later we decided to start with an afternoon tea in February which, at the suggestion of Colleen Inwood evolved into a high tea.

Eileen joined the team soon after the start. She, along with me (Tineke), for a few years planned the entertainment. Later, Betty Durr and Sylvia McGill took over organising the entertainment. After Sylvia's death Betty continued with the entertainment until about two years ago. Eileen once again took over from Betty, who was unable to continue owing to health problems. We have had some wonderful entertainment over the years, often very funny, sometimes even hilarious. We have had jokes, skits, poems, sing-a-longs (thank you Sister Francine), musicians, singers, speakers, quizzes, bells and chimes and much more. We thank all those who have contributed to this aspect of the luncheon.

Right from the very beginning we have had a great team in the kitchen, who not only served the food but also shopped and prepared it, set the tables cleaned up afterwards and undertook the washing of tablecloths etc. The team members have changed over time. We are very thankful for each one of them both from the past and the present for all their love and willingness to make the luncheon a success.

We extend a big thank you to our Sisters and Priests, both past and present. Each one of them has contributed in various ways.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you who have come to the luncheon over the years. Many friendships have been formed and lots of laughter with great conversation has permeated the foyer. Over the years you have given us great pleasure and many happy moments to look back on.

Hopefully the monthly luncheon will continue for another 20 years or more.

**Every parishioner who is 60 + is warmly welcomed
to come and join us on the first Tuesday of the month.**

Look out for the notices in the Parish Newsletter. You will enjoy it! I guarantee.

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Tawa Rotary 'Pride in Work' Awards

by Pat Waite



On 18th October, Tawa Rotary and Tawa Business Group held the annual **Tawa Pride in Work Awards** Dinner and Presentation ceremony, with over one hundred people attending. The Pride in Work Award is designed to acknowledge an employee or volunteer, irrespective of age or vocation, who in the eyes of their employer/organisation or customers, displays outstanding qualities in terms of approach, attitude, dedication and commitment to his or her job.

Celebrating our Employees and Volunteers has been a focus of the Tawa Rotary recent programme and the Tawa Rotary Pride in Work event is now in its 3rd year. We are grateful for our partners in this programme, the Tawa Business Group, for their participation and sponsorship, and all of the Tawa businesses and organisations who put forward nominations. And also to New World Tawa for sponsoring the meat pack prize for the raffle.

One of the seventeen recipients this year was our own parish secretary, Jane Lee (seen here with event sponsors)

Very many congratulations - the acknowledgement you received shows the esteem in which your nominating organisation (Our Lady of Hope Parish) holds you.

Meals on Wheels Service

by Rosemary & Tom King



This is a service available to people who are house-bound, unable to cook for themselves or who may need some short-term provision of meals.



The meals are delivered by volunteer drivers between 11 am and 1 pm. Monday – Friday except Public Holidays. The current cost of these meals is \$4.31 per meal, which comprises a main course and a dessert.

To qualify for the Meals on Wheels, service clients must be referred by a doctor or a social worker.

For Tawa and adjoining districts meals are prepared by Spotless and are uplifted from the Porirua Hospital kitchen. Areas covered from this base by MoW are from Tawa to Waikanae.

There are those who have been on the MoW list for some time, while others are, or have been, short-time recipients of the service.

We cover the Tuesday Tawa run, which usually takes around 1 1/2 to 2 hours, depending on the client list. This can vary from around 18 drop-offs up to 29 and involves a reasonably wide coverage of the Tawa district.

Having the MoW volunteers dropping off the meals may be the only daily personal contact that some people have. Not surprisingly, there are a number who really enjoy a big good chat!

Fellow parishioners Joy and Bill Chaplin are also MoW deliverers and have been doing the Tawa run for around 8 or so years. We have been doing MoW for about 5 years and have found being involved in the MoW programme very rewarding and see it as one version of community service.

Interested in helping?

If any parishioners are interested in joining the MOW delivery team the contact details are: carl.smith@spotless.co.nz or phone: (04) 918 6014.

Drivers able to give just a couple of hours a month, fortnight or week are welcome. MoW would love to hear from you.

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Marian Mothers Retreat Weekend

by *Monique Lopez*



Our parish has a vibrant Marian Mothers group. They not only support each other socially and spiritually, they also are individually engaged in various parish activities and ministries. The photo, at Our Lady of Kāpiti church, is of those members of the group who attended the retreat they recently organized .

From Sept 30th to October 2nd, the Marian Mothers group in our parish had it's first annual retreat at El Rancho in Waikanae. We started on Friday evening with a session I conducted entitled *That Grace Called Friendship*, which was a topic that focused on the divine grace of friendship between St. Paul and St. Luke and how this has led to the writing of more than half of the New Testament. Hopefully this session opened our hearts to the mission God is entrusting us in our friendship in Marian Mothers.

Saturday started with Mass and confession at Our Lady of Kāpiti Church then back to El Rancho with a session by Amie Fouhy called *I Thirst*, which was a topic that inspired her when she attended an XLT (Youth Formation) session. We shared about how we all thirst for God but that He also thirsts for us. We prayed the rosary in the afternoon and attended the vigil Mass at Our Lady of Kāpiti Church. Saturday night was a fellowship games night!

Sunday was a sleep-in, packing up then brunch at a local café before heading home.

If you would like to know more about Marian Mothers, or to join this group: contact Mary through the parish office; pick up a leaflet in the church foyer; or check out the web site: maristlaitynz.org and scroll to the bottom of the page to find Marian Mothers. The group meets monthly, with details in the Happenings.

Our parish also has a Marian Mothers group for older women/grandmothers.

We are known as [Women of Faith](#) group and also meet monthly with details in the Happenings. More information as above, or contact Jane through the parish office.

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Christmas Fun Morning

*Leave your children for a fun filled morning
while you catch up on Christmas preparations!*

Tuesday 20th December 10am - 12.30 pm

at Our Lady of Fatima church Tawa.

Our Fun Morning is suitable for children 4 years and upwards.

Younger children are welcome with an adult caregiver.



Enjoy games, crafts and snacks.



We will also be practising the play for the Christmas Eve Family Mass.

Helpers are required for this event (*teenagers, parents, other parishioners*).

Please contact Marie Andrewartha 021 476 153

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Sunday School White Sunday

by Mele Mapasua

On 2nd October at St Pius X Church in Titahi Bay, our Samoan Community held their first combined Sunday School Mass since we went into lockdown two years ago.



Samoan Sunday schools from St Patrick, Kilbirnie; St Joseph, Levin; St Pius X, Titahi Bay; St Joseph, Mt Victoria and Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa decided it was time to put Covid behind them and gather the schools together to reboot and get back on track starting by celebrating “*Lotu Tamaiti*” (Children’s White Sunday) with a Mass.



The celebrant, Fr Sio Savesi, alluded to this when he included the children in his sermon by inviting their contributions to his questions about faith and action.

Their response? ***To love Jesus and be like him every day.***



The Sunday Schools performed action songs, drama skits and recited memory verses with nervous poise and pride. The church was filled with excitement, laughter and applause from proud families as they once again bathed under the light of their children's presentations of the Good News in the context of their fa'asamoa culture and language.



A huge feast was put on by the community afterwards where the children were served and waited on first. A feeling of gratitude and a renewal of hope resonated throughout the day as thankyou's and congratulations were exchanged with a handshake and a hug.

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Learning More for Mission

by *Telesia Alaimoana (Launch Out Candidate)*

Recently I finished two papers from the bachelor's degree in divinity from the Catholic Institute of Sydney through Te Kupenga.

These papers are the last academic requirements for **Launch Out**. The two papers I enrolled in are: **Introduction to Pastoral Counselling** and **Theology and Practice in Liturgy**.



In this article I would like to share a summary of what I have learned, which could be applicable in the parish setting. I am hoping that by sharing these thoughts, I could give my fellow Launch Out candidates, an idea of what they could expect from these courses.

It becomes pastoral when we first look at the person as one made in the image in likeness of God, and not simply as a client.

In the **Introduction to Pastoral Counselling**, I was familiar with the theories as they applied in my social work studies. The main difference is that which makes counselling *pastoral*. It becomes pastoral when we first look at the person as one made in the image in likeness of God, and not simply as a client. This is the main principle of Pastoral Counselling. There are three main lessons I took from this course. First, is knowing that the focus of pastoral care is the person whose needs and suffering is entrusted to my care. My care for them is not an opportunity for me to unpack my own issues and I need to be aware if I am projecting my own needs and suffering onto them. This pertains to the need to be clear of both my own and the other person's boundaries. What is asked of me is to look after my own mental hygiene. It made me realise the value of having regular spiritual direction and having a prayer life.

Secondly, is establishing trust and respect in the counselling relationship. This is connected to the first one and it also means being aware and accepting that I can only go as far into the relationship as the other person allows me to. I cannot push my way into the person's life to 'fix them'. This respect ultimately means acknowledging that *healing is the choice of the person*.

Finally, the role of spiritual direction is to help the person fulfil God's purpose for them. If I am a spiritual director, I am called to accompany the person and help them understand the different ways God is moving in their life. The person's relationship with God is intimate and sacred, and it is our role to safeguard that.

Jesus showed preference for the vulnerable. In the parish it is not easy to detect those who are suffering or going through tough times unless they tell us. Thus, it is important to pick up those cues, along with supporting parish initiatives that attempt to engage with people more meaningfully. It also means that our parish ministry should have an holistic approach. That we not only see warm bodies in the pews but see them as people with mind, body and soul.

We not only see warm bodies in the pews but see them as people with mind, body and soul

The **Theology and Practice of Liturgy** gave me a more sophisticated understanding and language of the purpose and practise of liturgy. One of the things that struck me is that Worship is both a glorification of God and human beings. And that worship is a pre-requisite of liturgy. God calls us first and then we are invited to respond.

Liturgy is the work of Christ done on behalf of the people and people must be engaged in it.

We are in His presence when we worship God. Worship allows Christians to show their love for God and feel closer to God. Liturgy is a public celebration and an action of the Church. Liturgy is the work of Christ done on behalf of the people and people must be engaged in it. It celebrates the paschal mystery as the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, it celebrates the many ways Christ is present in the Church, it prepares and leads the Church to the heavenly life with God. Liturgy is both the summit and the fount for the Church. Understanding the difference between Worship and Liturgy is important, as it is often misunderstood by some who come from different interpretations and from a different cultural background, like myself. My active participation is necessary because every liturgical celebration is an action of Christ, the priest and his Body, the church.

Overall, taking up these courses is worth the time and effort. The work of ministry and leading parishes needs competence and compassion. And good knowledge can help us achieve both.

First published in Launch Out Letters, October 2022. Used with permission

Support for Loved Ones who have a Family Member with Dementia

by Gabrielle Mears

Dementia is a ‘rugged journey’ for loved ones.

I read with interest the article on dementia in the last issue of *Stories of Hope*, as I have had the experience of supporting a close relative who lived on his own. A bachelor.

It is great if you live with a loving, supportive family member, but a real challenge is if a person lives privately and independently. Denial of a problem is slow to be overcome.

Peter had been diagnosed with advanced dementia for six years. Early diagnosis could be a helpful tool for everyone concerned. This is not always possible. Peter was a fit, strong man. He was a fiercely independent bachelor. He was someone who enjoyed running long distances regularly, even in retirement. He belonged to the Wellington marathon clinic. He loved Wellington, horse racing and Rugby League. It was devastating for the family when he could no longer look after himself. Feeding and caring for himself were gone from the radar. It also became a regular occurrence for him to lose his way during his adventures - running distances or walking in Wellington City.

He lived close to Countdown in Newtown, but he was still unable to purchase his supplies.

At age 83 it was advised that he move into lock-up care, so he became a resident at Village on the Park. Eventually he was in ‘high level’ lock-up care at Millvale House in Miramar. This lock-up care is devastating to family. The visits are very challenging and emotionally draining.

Lock-up care is devastating to family.

The visits are very challenging and emotionally draining.

The visits and ups and downs of his journey were like a rollercoaster, especially when a higher level of care was necessary. Dementia is an experience that is almost impossible to describe verbally. It is a private journey for carers as the journey is so heart-breaking and unexpected.



from left: Peter, Peter & Paul's sister - Marea Hickling, Gabrielle, Paul

Here are my recommendations for survival.

For six years, Dementia Wellington supported me and my family. They have a support group who meet for coffee. This is lead by a social worker in private rooms and we received helpful suggestions when we struck an obstacle. This is great for caregivers as obstacles can be ongoing.

They run coffee groups that we could take our loved one along to and meet others. This is a social outing. We could also contact the social worker any time. The social worker also makes home visits. Dementia Wellington also run wonderful educational seminars and workshops that kept us informed about the disease and gave us great information. Once again we received helpful hints for obstacles in our journey.

We also met courageous people who are fellow carers, often managing at amazing odds to care for loved ones at home.

Dementia Wellington was an angel in disguise for me. If you have a loved one with dementia, I would say Dementia Wellington is a wonderful tool and support organisation, particularly for those looking after a loved one with dementia at home, or if you are visiting a loved one in lock-up care, as I did for five years.

After my husband, Paul, died in 2019, I picked up the pieces and carried on visiting his brother Peter.

Peter died in November 2021. May he rest in peace.

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My 2022 Vocation-Vacation NZ

by Teresa Rayner

During the 2021 lockdown, I was feeling pretty burnt out and longing for a change of pace. It was in the midst of this despair that God reminded me of a dream I once had.

I've been discerning Religious Life since 2018, but when I first felt called, I had no idea where to go or who to turn to for support. We often put a lot of emphasis on the priesthood and inspiring new vocations in men, but as a young woman, I felt quite alone. I thought about travelling the country and visiting our Religious Orders to discover what was out there. But it was just a dream - I never imagined God would shape it into a reality!

With the space that lockdown provided, I began to imagine what achieving this might look like, and a plan slowly formed for what became my 'Vocation Vacation.' In June this year, following 5 months of preparation, I set out in a campervan to travel the country, take a break from work



The campervan in Kaikoura



With Sr Mary Feehan,
Good Shepherd sister, Auckland

and ministry, and meet the Religious of New Zealand. I am proud to say that as my travels come to an end, I have now visited 17 Religious Orders and met 82 Sisters. But, perhaps more importantly, I've also been documenting this experience through interviews published on YouTube, blog posts about the life and works of our Orders, and on social media posts to get a younger audience involved in the journey. I don't want other young people - particularly young women - to feel alone like I did.

As our Religious grow older and the work of some congregations adapts, I want people to know that doesn't mean Religious Life is going extinct! ***I still believe God is calling people to this vocation - but if no one talks openly about the possibility, how would they know?***

Why would they answer?

You can learn more about my experience this year on my website:

vocationvacationz.squarespace.com

(or scan the QR code)



[Youtube: Vocation Vacation NZ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) or Instagram @vocation.vacationz

If you know of anyone who might benefit from hearing about this, please spread the word!

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Children's Art Competition Winners



Winner age 8 plus: **Sophia Lopez** (left) Winner 7 & under: **Hazel Lunny** (right)

Hazel's picture was also chosen for the magazine cover. Congratulations to both.

St Pius X School - by *Philippa Matla (Acting Principal)*

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



We've enjoyed getting to know "H" our Kapiti-Mana School Community Officer.

H came to serve us breakfast, have some games and talk to us about keeping safe.

We held a powhiri early this term (our first one in nearly 2 years!) to welcome all the tamariki and kaiako who have joined our school this year. It was a great success and we were proud of the students who took leadership roles on the day.



The students have enjoyed joining our Titahi Bay parishioners at their Thursday morning Mass and many have taken turns contributing to the service by doing some of the readings.





Coach Tim from Wellington Cricket is taking us for weekly sessions to learn and practice new skills.



Celebrating Samoan and Tokelauan Language Weeks provided a great deal of new learning and a whole heap of fun!

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Before you speak - THINK

T ... is it true?

H ... is it helpful?

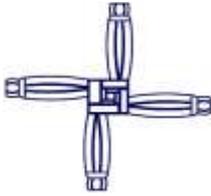
I ... is it inspiring?

N ... is it necessary?

K ... is it kind?

"Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things." Philipians 4:8

St Francis Xavier School - by *Joan Woods Principal*)



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

Here at St Francis Xavier School, we are looking forward to the completion of the **renovation work** that has been taking place at school throughout this year. The reroofing part of the main building has been

completed and the remainder of the reroofing is expected to be finished before the start of the new school year.

Lighting and heating has been updated and windows from classrooms into the corridor have been reinstalled.

We are also looking forward to the sunshade structure that is to be completed outside of the classrooms at the north end of the building.

With two classes in the school hall while the building work has been happening, we have missed having school-wide assemblies and gatherings and are looking forward to things returning to normal in the New Year.

Alongside the building work that has been taking place, a wide range of learning opportunities have continued for our children.

Our Young Vinnies have been learning about the impact of rubbish in our local environment and they collected rubbish around Te Awarua-o-Porirua. Amanda Joe, the Youth Coordinator for Young Vinnies, tasked the students with homework - writing letters to the Porirua Council about the problem and some solution ideas. Children then presented these letters to the Mayor, Anita Baker. Let's hope the voices of these tamariki are heard.



We are very grateful to Amanda Joe for her amazing leadership of this group.

Fifteen children from St Francis Xavier were confirmed by Archbishop Paul Martin SM on Sunday 30 October. Children will continue with the sacramental programme preparing for First Communion on 27 November. (see photo on p. 29)

Once again, the children have had the opportunity to experience a range of sports.



We were very fortunate to have **Wellington Cricket** come into school and coach the children in batting, bowling and fielding. Students from Tawa College have come to school and coached our Year 5 and 6 children in Ki-o-rahi in preparation for an interschool tournament.

To celebrate All Saints' Day each syndicate had their own liturgy, inviting whānau to join them in the celebration. The children presented in different ways their knowledge about saints they had learnt about. It was wonderful to have so many family members join us.



Four children from St Francis Xavier represented the school at an **Interschool Scripture Reading Competition** with children from six other Catholic schools taking part. St Francis Xavier came first in the Year 6 English section, second in the Year 5 English section, third in the Māori section and fourth in

the Samoan section. We are very proud of the achievement of the children and I am sure they will be great liturgy readers for the Church. Cont. over page ...

Enrolments for 2023

If you have a child who will turn five next year, please phone the school office on 232 8927 for an Enrolment Pack or visit our website: sfxtawa.school.nz for more information regarding enrolment forms and procedures. I am very happy to meet with any new prospective parents for 2023.

The new school year starts on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

With the end of school year and Christmas in sight, many of our learning programmes will have a focus on **ADVENT**, as a time of preparation for Christmas. We will also farewell our Year 6 leavers and celebrate their time at St Francis Xavier School.

I wish you all, on behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees a Merry Christmas/Hari Kirihimete *Joan Woods*

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Receiving Communion at Home



Are you unable to attend a parish Mass? We can come to you in your home!

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). Visits in Titahi Bay are by arrangement.

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

Our Lady of Hope Parish Confirmation 2022



On Sunday 30 October we welcomed Archbishop Paul Martin SM to the 10:30 am Mass. This was his first visit to our parish as Archbishop and, more importantly, he was here to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 19 candidates.

It was wonderful to finally be able to celebrate Confirmation as one group with the whole parish, which we hadn't been able to do since 2019 because of Covid.

All the candidates took part in the Mass by reading prayers of the faithful, assisting the prayer leader and bringing up various items in the offertory procession.

Some of the parents had decorated the sanctuary with colourful flames and each of the children's names. Music was provided by the *Song of Mary* choir.

These children will receive their First Communion on 27th November.

Congratulations to our candidates:

Elisha, Carlos, Enzo, Elizabeth, Francesca, Caleb, James, Christoff,
Ethan, Lola, Elizabeth, Isabel, Sophia, Marcellinus, Peighton,
Ayudh, Johann, Gertrudo and Michelle.

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All Souls' Day Remembrance Mass

by Jane Lee

All Souls Day is a time for remembering our family and friends who are no longer present with us.

Since 2016 our Parish has invited the families of members of our parish community who have died in the previous 12 months (from 1 October to 30 September) to attend the Remembrance Mass on All Souls Day.

During the month of November, a photo of each person is displayed in the sanctuary so we can especially remember them at each Mass.

At the Remembrance Mass a candle ceremony is held where we ask a family member (or parishioner representing the family if families are unable to attend) to light a candle in memory of each person.

This year, for the first time, we shared a cuppa after the Mass so families and parishioners could share fellowship and memories.



Thanks to Mele for providing the photos.

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Obituary for Colleen Inwood

by Margaret Weaver

Colleen will be remembered as being a kind, caring and loving person.



She was a member of our Parish in Tawa for over 50 years, living in Oxford Street with her husband Terry (who died 29 years ago in 1993). There they brought up their family of five children.

Colleen had a wide range of interests, one of which was her love of gardening. Her beautiful roses and daffodils at the front of the house were admired by many. The back garden was equally impressive, always filled with an amazing variety of vegetables and fruit trees.

This is where her big white rabbit, Moses, lived with budgies, cats and other pets.

Colleen always had a jigsaw puzzle on the go. She enjoyed swimming, water aerobics and loved playing cards or board games. She liked to crochet and made over 100 blankets for family, friends and charity.



She was a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Tawa Women's Institute and the Catholic Women's League. While she was a member of the CWL she initiated the



weekly Games Afternoon held in the church meeting room. Ma Jong became the prevailing game and the sessions were attended by loyal members until Covid came and it was discontinued.

During her last few years Colleen lived at Malvina Major Retirement village.

She died on the 18th October, just ten days short of her 90th birthday.

May She Rest in Peace

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Remember that you can access *Stories of Hope* online

The parish web site: ourladyofhope.org.nz has the latest magazine edition and an archive of all past editions, as well as all the 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.

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

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

Mass Times in Nearby Parishes

Our Lady of Hope parish times highlighted.

Saturday vigil	5:00pm	St Andrew's Newlands (Ohariu) *
	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 (Ohariu)*
	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 (Ohariu) *
	5:15pm	Te Ngākau Tapu (English Mass)

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

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Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

Baptisms

Name of child	Parents	Date
Selene Aurora Elemento	Kristina & Donald Elemento	20 August 2022
Lillie Violeta Ferrari	Felicity & Mauricio Ferrari	21 August 2022
Beatrice Brondial Butaran	Monique & Rogelio Butaran	10 September 2022
Oliver Ryan Cinco Umali	Rebecca & Ron Umali	11 September 2022
Louis Salimu Theo Sialau-Toalepai	Anya Washburn & Joe Toalepai	1 October 2022
Wilfred Otto Armstrong Johnston	Elizabeth Armstrong & Christopher Johnston	8 October 2022

Deaths

Moran Ross Odell	25 July 2022
Helene Mary FitzGerald Tohill	23 August 2022
Mese Leuta Alosio	14 September 2022
John (Sean) O'Neill	20 September 2022
Kathleen Mary Johnson	24 September 2022
Joseph Patrick Columba Whelan	9 October 2022
Robert Ovini Aitcheson	8 October 2022
Colleen Brigid Inwood	18 October 2022

*Truly, it is in darkness that one finds the light,
so when we are in sorrow,
then this light is nearest to all of us.*

Meister Eckhart



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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 -12:00pm Tuesday-Friday phone: (04) 232 5611
or email: 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 Tuesday am each month - see weekly newsletter

Other events: check website calendar or newsletter: 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 web site: <http://ninness.co.nz>.

There are many services offered by Ninness to assist you with preparing and holding a funeral service for your loved one or pre-planning your own. We will highlight one or two of those services in each edition:

First steps:

- * Viewing: once the preparations have been completed, there is the option of having the casket brought to your home or you can visit your loved one at the funeral home.
- * For dressing your loved one, you can choose whatever feels right for you/them. You are welcome to dress or assist with dressing. You decide what is to happen to all jewellery. You are welcome to give advice or participate with cosmetics and hairstyling. A recent photo is helpful for this.
- * Newspaper notices: Usually the funeral director inserts the main death and funeral notices for the family. We are happy to help you compose the notice for local, national and international newspapers.
The funeral director can advise you on cut-off times and costs.

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 – 30 November 2022

Wednesday – 25 January 2023

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.



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Brenden Jacobsen



Larry Greco

Ninness Funeral Home -

for caring, friendly and professional, funeral services.

Call us for personal service today: 04 237 4174

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Or mail P.O. BOX 51-029, TAWA, 5249

