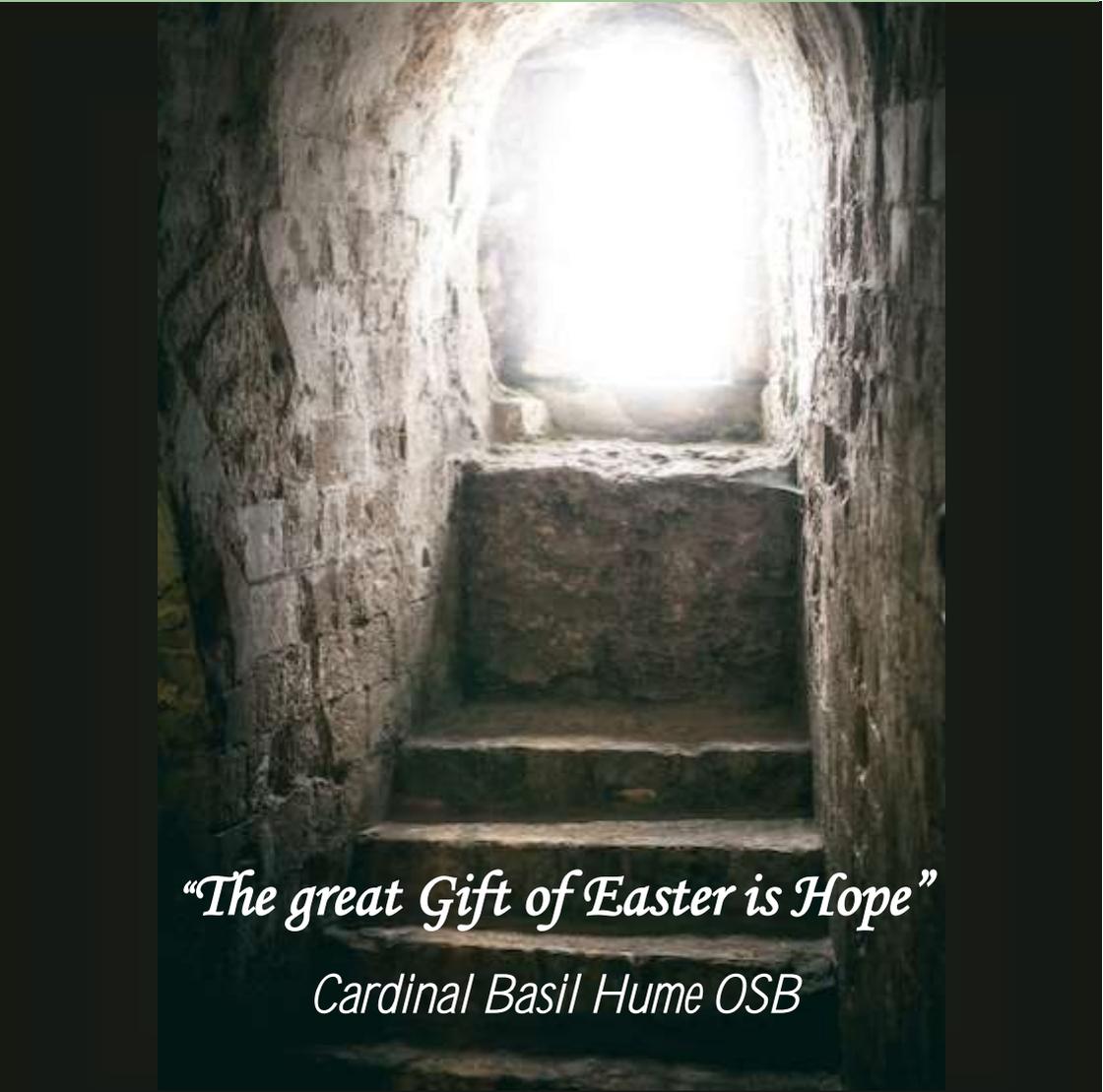




Stories of HOPE

March 2023

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



“The great Gift of Easter is Hope”

Cardinal Basil Hume OSB

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 021 189 5953 magazine@ourladyofhope.org.nz

Deadline for next edition: 7th July 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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With Thanks to:

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

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Fr Rico de la Torre, Jane Langham, Kingsley Ihejirika

Contributors this issue:

Marie Andrewartha, Jane Langham, Jane Lee, Suzanne Lewis, Monique Lopez, Ian Munro, Nicola O’Keeffe, Teresa Rayner, Maggie Tait, Joan Woods.

From the Editor

by *Jane Langham*



It seems that for all of this year so far there has been nothing but disaster in our news reports - the major flooding and it's aftermath here in New Zealand, the disastrous earthquakes in Syria and Turkey and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Lent is a good time to reflect that even in the face of disaster, our God is still in charge and can bring joy, hope, and ultimately resurrection out of the most challenging of situations. The message of Easter is needed today!

In this edition of our parish *Stories of Hope* (what an appropriate name!) we can read about life in its fullness, from birth to death. Do you sometimes look through the list of parish baptisms and deaths? If there are any you were not aware of, you could congratulate or offer sympathy to the family, as appropriate.

Teresa Rayner is beginning her journey towards becoming a Sister ([p10.](#)); we have the encouraging story of the journey towards restored health from Suzanne ([p.9](#)). Ian challenges us to face the problems of our world with kindness ([p.6](#)) and there are the different challenges of our parish financial situation! ([p.13](#)) As always, there are other people and stories that I hope will interest and inspire you.

With recent changes in parish structures in our diocese, there are now several new 'relocated' parishioners in Our Lady of Hope parish. Welcome to our parish magazine! I hope that all of you will fully join in all those groups, ministries and activities that you can, so that we can serve you and you can serve us. Some of our groups are highlighted each magazine edition. Others have meetings noted in the weekly *Happenings*. There is information on the notice boards and leaflet racks and any other information required can be obtained from the parish office.

Our parish secretary is Jane LEE. She can be contacted in person in the parish office Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 12 noon about all parish matters.

Phone: (04) 232 5611 or email: ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz both of which are checked every day.

You are also very welcome to send in contributions to this magazine.

This includes any feedback you might wish to give.

I wish you all a very fruitful and blessed Lent and Easter

Jane

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Holy Week Timetable 2023

Monday 3 April	9:00 am	Mass, Tawa
Tuesday 4 April	9:00 am	Mass, Tawa
Wednesday 5 April	9:00 am	Mass, Tawa
	9.30am-9pm	Adoration, Tawa
Holy Thursday 6 April	NO MORNING MASS	
	7:30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper, St Pius X, Titahi Bay
		Followed by Adoration till 11pm
Good Friday 7 April	10:00 am	Combined Churches Liturgy for all the churches in Tawa, held at St Christopher's Anglican Church (finishes about 11 am). Followed by drinks and hot cross buns.
	Approx. 12:00 to 1:30pm Ecumenical 'Seven Meditations on the Cross' - Meditations in art and poetry presented by local artists. St Christopher's	
	11:30 am	Stations of the Cross, Our Lady of Fatima , Tawa
	3:00 pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa
Easter Masses		
Holy Saturday 8 April	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil , Our Lady of Fatima,
Easter Sunday 9 April	8:30 am	Children's Mass, Our Lady of Fatima
	9:00 am	Easter Mass, St Pius X, Titahi Bay
	10:30 am	Easter Mass, Our Lady of Fatima,

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Weekday Mass and Liturgy of the Word

From the start of 2023, on the first and third Monday of each month, there will be a lay-led liturgy of the Word with Eucharist in place of the usual 9am Mass. This will also occur when Fr Rico is away.

When a special feast day falls on one of those days, there will be Mass

The Power of Kindness

by Ian Munro



When recent change of our national leadership occurred, there were strong reactions, both of dismay and glee, as the news broke of Jacinda Ardern's resignation. There followed much talk about the extremely vitriolic spoken and written attacks on her and the vicious threats made to her physical safety and well-being and that of her family

Instead of seeing her example of kindness and her exhortation to the nation to exhibit kindness as a quality of strength, those who chose to denigrate her painted her kindness as a negative quality and a sign of weakness and ineffectualness.

This reminded me of the section in Pope Francis's 2020 encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti*, entitled "*Recovering Kindness*".¹ He talks about how the promotion of individualism (a stentorian catch-cry of the political far right) has led to great injustice over the last several decades.

As Pope Francis puts it, people like the former Prime Minister "*come to be viewed simply as obstacles to our own serene existence; we end up treating them as annoyances and we become increasingly aggressive. This is even more the case in times of crisis, catastrophe and hardship, when we are tempted to think in terms of the old saying, "every man for himself". Yet even then, we can choose to cultivate kindness. Those who do so become stars shining in the midst of darkness.*"

Does this sound familiar?

A fruit of the Holy Spirit

So, what exactly is kindness? St Paul describes it as a fruit of the Holy Spirit,² and Pope Francis writes that it "*frees us from the cruelty that at times infects human relationships, from the anxiety that prevents us from thinking of others, from the frantic flurry of activity that forgets that others also have a right to be happy*".

"Individuals who possess this quality help make other people's lives more bearable, especially by sharing the weight of their problems, needs and fears. This way of treating others can take different forms: an act of kindness, a concern not to offend by word or deed, a readiness to alleviate their burdens. It involves speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn.

"... every now and then, miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set

everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference.”

Kindness is purposeful

It seems to me, though, that kindness isn't just about being perpetually nice and agreeable and saying 'yes' to everything. There is more depth to kindness than that. Kindness is purposeful.

So, while it is about operating with empathy and concern in our daily lives, it is also about taking the hard decisions and the sort of motives that underpin those decisions. For example, as parents, sometimes the kindest thing we can do for our youngsters is to say an emphatic 'no'; sometimes the kindest thing is to have the family's much-loved pet euthanised.

Our leaders, too, continually face the same sort of dilemmas. Some rise to the occasion and some avoid dealing with them and instead focus on blaming others for negative outcomes. US president Franklin D. Roosevelt noted that human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fibre of a free people.³

Therefore, if kindness is indeed part of our social fabric, and we are in danger of having that fabric torn apart, it raises the question: as Christians, how can each of us be proactive in protecting and strengthening it?

Not a superficial bourgeois virtue

Kindness, writes Francis, isn't a superficial bourgeois virtue. It's about creating a healthy social atmosphere in which misunderstandings can be overcome and conflict forestalled.

“Once kindness becomes a culture within society, it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared. Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths, whereas hostility and conflict would burn all bridges.”

Despite this recent tendency to mock kindness, I believe New Zealanders are inherently kind. In moments of danger or times of crises, such as the Christchurch earthquakes, the mosque shootings, the recent Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle, and in the many other moments of individual danger through fire, vehicle accidents, swimming incidents and the like, ordinary people display extraordinary kindness to others through heroic actions.

But it's not all about heroic actions either. Here in Tawa we have people demonstrating kindness in ways that make a difference to people's lives through the likes of St Vincent de Paul, Pregnancy Help, Meals on Wheels, and Kai Kitchen, our volunteer firefighters, service groups such as Lions and Rotary, and neighbours looking out for our neighbours. Good Samaritans, all.

Strengthening our social fabric

So kindness isn't some wishy-washy nice-to-have. It's a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it's dynamic, it's powerful and it's purposeful.

Therefore, if kindness is indeed part of our social fabric, and we are in danger of having that fabric torn apart, it raises the question: as Christians, how can each of us be proactive in protecting and strengthening it?

My reflections on *Fratelli Tutti* have led me to an answer. In it I see a call to action. In Pope Francis's words, a call for each of us to:

- ◆ **make a point of speaking words of “comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement”;**
- ◆ **stand up to those speaking words that “demean, sadden, anger or show scorn”;**
- ◆ **stand up for those in need and show “a readiness to alleviate their burdens”;**
- ◆ **strengthen support for those who are attempting to address the issues and injustices that are often the underlying reasons why the haters and denigrators would deny the right of others to be happy - the reasons why they themselves seem to be unhappy;**
- ◆ **“create a healthy social atmosphere in which misunderstandings can be overcome and conflict forestalled”.**

Some of these are not easy things to do and there will be those who become annoyed and aggressive at our doing them, even making accusations of 'unkindness to them' on our part. However, kindness is probably the most effective and most inexpensive vehicle for social change and for strengthening our social fabric. It's something we can all act on and, to paraphrase Mother Teresa, its echoes are truly endless.

Footnotes:

1 *Fratelli Tutti*, 3 October 2020, 222-224

2 Galatians, 5:22

3 Radio address for the Mobilization for Human Needs, 13 October 1940

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Search online to find the full text of [Fratelli Tutti](#)

Suzanne has a Stroke

by Suzanne Lewis



I had been working for Victoria University for 17 years when I suffered a stroke two years ago. Luckily, it didn't affect my limbs, but it did greatly affect my speaking.

It has been a long hard road to where I am now.

Photo: *Suzanne with husband Matthew*

With the help of our regular coffee group that Mum and Dad (Margaret and Peter Weaver) go to after the weekday mass, I am beginning, slowly but surely, to talk again.

There has been a music therapist too who has been able to help with the pronunciation of words and with getting my mouth to move at the right time in the right direction. I have been seeing her weekly since having the stroke.

The *Choir for the Brain Injured* has been a lot of fun. This is for people who have had strokes, those with Parkinson's Disease, brain tumours and people with dementia.

I thought about God's plan for me, which is to listen to my husband, to my parents, also to any other person who has speech impediments, by making them realize that they are important too in a world full of 'Influencers'.

What is God's plan for me? I think it is to show other people who have had a stroke there *is* a way to get better.



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My Vocation Journey

by Teresa Rayner

On 2nd February I moved to Canberra to join the *Missionaries of God's Love Sisters!* This has been a decision over 4 years in the making.

In 2018, at a Catholic camp called Jesus 4 Real, I was in a time of private Eucharistic Adoration, when I heard God say "You're gonna be a nun." I could easily have dismissed this as something my mind had made up - apart from two things: I'd never really considered religious life before, so these words were very out of the blue; and I felt a deep peace, even while my mind was running through all the reasons I should not be a nun.

This call sat in the back of my mind as I busied myself with work and ministry. I did visit a couple of orders in Christchurch - but none seemed quite right for me. At the beginning of 2020, I attended *Hearts Aflame*, a ten day Catholic Summer School. (I am very grateful to the Parish for sponsoring me so that I could attend this event.) There, for the first time, I saw many religious, men and women, in one place, and it was there that I met Sister Rachel of the Missionaries of God's Love.

I don't think I would have connected with her, but God had made a way - I actually recognised her brown and white clothing from a TV show I loved to watch - *The Amazing Race*. A couple of years ago, two MGL sisters had competed on the show - which already tells you something of their Community! I talked with Sr Rachel, and she became my Spiritual Director.

During the two lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, I had the opportunity to participate in online discernment weekends with the MGL sisters, all from the comfort of my own room. And everything I heard about them sat well with me - their work in reaching the unchurched, particularly young people; their Spirit-led charismatic way of life, their love for families and support from a wider community (called the 'Disciples of Jesus'). I began journeying with their Vocations Director, and made plans to visit them and experience their way of life in person.

Finally, in March 2022, the borders reopened and I was able to stay with the Sisters for a month. Within minutes I felt very at home.

The community is quite young, with other sisters in formation being 22, 27 and 28, so I felt very comfortable doing 'normal' things I never imagined nuns would do - joking around, referencing song lyrics, playing card games and watching movies. They took me to the museum and Parliament House on their sisterhood day (Mondays), and I joined in classes and ministry, meeting the residents of a caravan park to whom they minister.



Teresa with some of the Sisters

I happened to be there during Holy Week, and participated in a huge Easter camp, celebrating the Lenten liturgies alongside hundreds of other young people.

As I have previously shared with the parish, during 2022 I embarked on my 'Vocation Vacation' travels around New Zealand.

No one I met - regardless of age, ministry or way of life - put me off Religious Life. In fact I could see

that they were all quite content. And by August 2022, I knew the MGL's were where I was meant to be, as nowhere else did I feel so at home.

And so, long story short, I'm off on the next adventure!

Please pray for me as I enter Religious Life, and know I will be praying for you!

You can follow along through the sisters Facebook or Instagram accounts, or by contacting them, asking to be added to their newsletter mailing list.

<https://www.mglsisters.org/>

God bless, Teresa

Our Prayers Are With You Teresa

On 29 January the parish said goodbye to Teresa Rayner. There was a special blessing for her at the end of the 8:30 mass on that day.

You may not have heard of the *Missionaries of God's Love Sisters* before (they have communities of sisters, brothers and priests). Their web site explains they are: *"A vibrant new group of consecrated women seeking to bring the fire of God's love to all people. Having experienced the love of Jesus personally, we feel invited to live a life exclusively centred on His love. We express this response of love to Jesus through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a lifestyle of prayer, sisterhood and mission."*

We wish Teresa well as she answers God's call and ask parishioners to support her with their prayers. Arohanui

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Parish Sacramental Programme 2023

- **time to enrol your child** by Marie Andrewartha

Each year, our children are invited to continue their faith journey through joining the Parish Sacramental programme, which includes making their First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

For each Sacrament, children and their parents or guardians join others for learning sessions which begin in **April**. You are warmly invited to register your child/children. There will be sign-up forms in both our churches and also at St Francis Xavier and St Pius X Catholic Schools

Enrolment packs are also available from the Parish Office.

ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz phone (04) 232 5611

You can also email or phone me to enrol or if you have any questions:

Marie Andrewartha: 021 476153 m.g.andrewartha@gmail.com

Please enrol your child/children as soon as possible.

Please include:

Your child's name and age

Your name

Your contact phone number

Children must be 8 years of age or over and have been baptised.

Sessions will be on Sundays at 4pm, at Our Lady of Fatima Church Tawa.

The programme begins on **Sunday 30th April 1.30pm-4.30pm**

with an **Introduction to the Sacramental Programme** at Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa

Please bring *some photos or special things from your child's Baptism e.g. candle, gown etc.* **(this day is a special part of the programme and it is important that you and your child attend)**

Enrolment Mass: Sunday 7th May, 8.30am, Our Lady of Fatima Church

First Reconciliation: Saturday 20th May, 3.00pm, Our Lady of Fatima Church



Parish Annual Accounts

from the Finance Committee

For Year ended 31st December 2022—prepared by Nicola O’Keeffe

As a registered charity we file an annual financial report in May/June each year with the Charities Commission, outlining similar information to what is in this report. We thank everyone who contributes to the parish either financially or by offering their time and expertise.

As you can see from the report, we have ended the year with a reasonable loss.

As with all households, the ever-increasing cost of living is impacting many of our expenses. We have also had a few significant costs in replacing the heaters and the projector at Our Lady of Fatima Church, and replacing the hot water cylinder in the presbytery. We are very grateful for a donation made by one of our parishioners to enable the purchase of the new projector. This projector also has better connection to our sound system for when videos or presentations are needed.

The committee are currently focusing on selling the Titahi Bay Presbytery, with most work to prepare the property for sale being completed. As part of the sale process we have engaged with local iwi regarding any interest in the property, and they are supportive of this sizable family home coming on the market. Following the sale, we will look to invest any money gained into continuing the renovation of the Tawa Presbytery, and putting aside some provision for future maintenance to our churches.

We also hope to welcome new members to the committee this year.

After many years dedicated service, some of the older members of our committee retired last year, with a few more looking to follow this year. ***After retirements, the committee will only have two members supporting Father so we ask you to please continue giving a small amount of your time to join us in our work.***

If you would like to discuss donating to the parish through planned giving, or towards one of the significant expenses or by joining the committee - please make contact with a member of the Finance Committee.

Contact can be made through the Parish Office.

Father Rico de la Torre, Graeme Hansen (Chair), Nicola O’Keeffe (Treasurer)
Denise Dorman, Ted Gallen, Patrick McGill, Tea Teofilo

March 2023

OUR LADY OF HOPE PARISH EXPENDITURE	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2020	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2021	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2022
Bank Fee Transactions	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -
Archdiocesan Levies **	\$ 75,180	\$ 85,774	\$ 84,290
Donations	\$ 1,774	\$ 2,725	\$ 5,742
General Expenses	\$ 6,717	\$ 8,738	\$ 6,062
Over 60's Lunch	\$ 261	\$ -	\$ -
Light, Power, Heating	\$ 5,203	\$ 5,040	\$ 6,548
Liturgical Material	\$ 3,513	\$ 5,239	\$ 3,280
Sacramental Programme	\$ 591	\$ 500	\$ 1,320
Flower Arrangements	\$ 104	\$ 250	\$ 313
Motor Vehicle Expenses	\$ 11,322	\$ 11,882	\$ 10,520
Planned Giving - envelopes	\$ 1,076	\$ 912	\$ 960
Photo-copying	\$ 1,388	\$ 1,402	\$ 1,217
Rates	\$ 5,948	\$ 6,485	\$ 7,256
Rates - water	\$ 1,373	\$ 1,288	\$ 1,200
Office Exp. (Incl. wages, stationery & postage)	\$ 21,341	\$ 30,012	\$ 36,982
Fire Alarm System	\$ 2,545	\$ 4,524	\$ 3,817
Youth Expenses	\$ 819	\$ -	\$ -
NZ Catholic & Columban Calendar sales	\$ 1,208	\$ 1,309	\$ 983
Telephone & Internet	\$ 3,569	\$ 2,790	\$ 2,956
Website	\$ 456	\$ 440	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 18,750	\$ 19,583	\$ 24,924
Operating Expenditure	\$ 163,163	\$ 188,893	\$ 198,371
Projector Purchase - St Pius X / Olof	\$ 2,380		\$ 4,251
Roof Repairs - St Pius X	\$ 3,638		
Pew Repairs - Our Lady of Fatima	\$ 3,793		
Heaters - Our Lady of Fatima			\$ 8,875
Presbytery Sale and Renovation	\$ 3,360	\$ 15,622	\$ 15,891
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 3,466	\$ 3,460	\$ 5,464
Capital Expenditure	\$ 16,637	\$ 19,082	\$ 34,481
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 179,800	\$ 207,975	\$ 232,853

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Feast Day of our Lady of Hope - *our parish patron 17 January*

This year our parish celebrated its patronal feast day. An altar was set up with our statue of Our Lady of Hope, candles, and lots of flowers. On the 3 days before the feast, special prayers were said at the end of Mass in preparation for the feast day.

On Tuesday 17 January, following the feast day prayers and incensing the altar, all present shared in morning tea in the foyer.

It is planned to make this an annual celebration for our parish.

Prayer to Our Lady of Hope

O Mary, my Mother, I kneel before you.

You are all-powerful with your Divine Son.

He can refuse no request of your Immaculate Heart.

O Refuge of Sinners and Hope of the Hopeless,

show yourself a true Mother to me

by being my advocate before His throne.

Obtain for me, then, O Mother of Hope,

the grace of true sorrow for my sins,

the gift of perfect resignation to God's Holy Will,

and the courage to take up my cross and follow Jesus.

Beg of His Sacred Heart the special favour that I ask .

(Make your request)

But above all I pray, O dearest Mother,

that through your most powerful intercession

my heart may be filled with holy hope,

so that I may never fail to trust in God my Saviour,

but by walking in the way of His commandments

I may merit to be united with Him, and with you

in the eternal joys of Heaven. Amen.

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March 2023



Above: the altar set up for the novena and feast day prayers

Below: Fr Rico incenses the altar on 17th January 2023



Some More Recent Parish Events

Photos by Monique Lopez



On **14th January**, Sr Francine McGovern received a special blessing at the end of Mass to mark the 60th anniversary of her profession as a Marist sister.

Many congratulations Francine!

Right: **2nd February.**

Blessing candles before Mass on the feast of the Purification of Mary.



Left: **3rd February.**

Blessing of throats on the feast of St Blaise.

Archbishop Rolando Tirona came from the Philippines to visit the priests in NZ on loan from his diocese. He was due in Tawa to meet Fr Rico and Fr Marlon (who had flown in from Nelson) on 14th February. Unfortunately, the cyclone caused flight cancellations so it was not until **15th February** that he was able to celebrate Mass in Tawa. This was followed by morning tea so parishioners could also meet the Archbishop.



Below:

Parish Marian Mothers Group at their first meeting for this year.



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Peggy Tait turns 90! - Her New Zealand story

By Maggie Tait

When Peggy Shiels got on a plane to New Zealand from Ireland by herself in April 1963, it was to come to look after her sister Kitty (Catherine), who was dying of cancer. After flight delays, and with cell phones yet to be invented, she found herself at Wellington Airport with no ride home. It had been more than two days of travel, and she can't remember all the stops, but the last couple were Jakarta and Sydney. Exhausted, Peggy picked herself up and grabbed a taxi to Johnsonville, where the locals were able to help her find her sister's home. Peggy's arrival here encapsulates her approach to life: service, compassion and a determined 'get on with it and get it done' attitude.



***Peggy Tait at her 90th Birthday celebration:
"So I am still going fairly well, but slowing down."***

She wasn't long at Kitty and Ted Shanaher's home in Johnsonville before Kitty needed to go to hospital for the last time. Peggy took the night shifts. Kitty died and was buried in Karori Cemetery on 23rd May 1963. She was just 46.

It was a hard time and this was when Peggy and Kath Hagan became friends for life. Kath ended up looking after Ted and Kitty's sons, Peter and Gerard, until Ted later remarried.

Margaret Healy also became a close friend, and they 'went about' together, including to the Irish Club where Peggy met her future husband, Arthur Tait. They were married in St. Peter and Paul's in Johnsonville on 25th September 1965.

The couple flatted in Johnsonville and then Newtown, where they had their first child, Mary. They applied for, and got, a State house in Turkington Street, Tawa. It was two bedrooms and they added on as the family grew. They also built a garage after the family car was stolen one night. *“It was all go those days”* Peggy says.

The children went to St. Francis Xavier primary school in Tawa and then Viard College in Porirua. Peggy became immersed in school and parish life, including church cleaning. It was the start of decades of service. As Peggy put it: *“Father Burke left and Frs Cochrane and Edwards came, so the previous sacristan asked me to take over from her - I accepted. I undertook all the chores, as well as cleaning, then along came Fr Reeves. So I continued with the job. Then he moved and Fr Penders came, then Father John.”*

She also served on the Parish Council and for very many years was a special minister of the Eucharist. In this role she helped with school masses and serving the elderly at Longview.

Arthur was also busy - he drove for the Society of St Vincent de Paul, worked on the Parish Council for three years and he and Peggy ran *Life in Spirit* seminars when Fr Cochrane was Parish Priest. They both visited the ill and supported people in their neighbourhood.

“I have never felt too busy in my work,” says Peggy. *“Everything was done for the Lord with love for my fellow parishioners.”*

Eventually, aged in her 70s, and following a hip operation, Peggy passed on the mantle of sacristan: *“I asked another lady if she would take over from me and I slipped quietly into a pew.”*

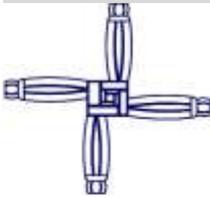
In 2018 Arthur’s declining health saw him move to Kemp Home and Hospital in Titahi Bay. He went to church there for some months, kindly supported by cousin Ian McLean, until his mobility meant he could not continue.

Peggy continued to live in Turkington Street with one of her grandsons – Blair. Shortly after Arthur’s death on 18th January 2021, Peggy moved to live with her daughter Margaret and her family in Karori, where Kitty is buried.

She visits Tawa from time to time and had a birthday lunch there on 28th December 2022 – her 90th. *“So I am still going fairly well, but slowing down,”* Peggy says.

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St Francis Xavier School - by Joan Wood (Principal)



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

The school year began with a liturgy where we were very fortunate to have Father Rico join us, giving everyone a blessing. Many classes were in temporary classrooms while we waited for building work in the main

building to be completed. It was very exciting for children to finally be able to move back into their permanent classrooms.

Most of the scaffolding around the building has finally been removed and we are now waiting for the new doors and windows to be installed.

A **'Meet the Teacher Evening'** was held in the first week of school. This evening was an opportunity for parents/caregivers to meet one on one with their child's teacher to discuss their child. Teachers have found these meetings to be a valuable way to connect with families and get to know more about the children.

On **Ash Wednesday** the whole school attended Mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday. It was wonderful to be able to have family members join us. During the Mass everyone had the sign of the cross with ashes made on their forehead as a reminder to follow Jesus more closely. The ash is a symbol of repentance from the 'sackcloth and ashes' of the Old Testament.

'This year there have been many exciting learning opportunities for our children with a focus on our overarching values of strength and gentleness - strength of mind and gentleness of heart. This term, our **Religion Education focus is Promotion of Peace** – The fruit of Justice and Love and everyone's needs are met.

Our children from Years 3-6 took part the Tawa schools'+ **Rippa Rugby tournament** organised by Tawa Rugby Club. The children enjoyed the opportunity to participate



and to show their sportsmanship, as well as this team winning the Year 5/6 trophy! Wellington Rugby Union brought along the Ranfurly shield for the children to admire.

This term our Year 1 and 2 children have had weekly swimming lessons at Tawa



School Pool. The children have been put in groups and are currently working on different skills.

Our school had a non-uniform day to raise money to help schools affected by the flooding across the North Island. Children were invited to come to school, not in uniform and

to make a donation to help schools in need. Any money raised will be sent to New Zealand Catholic Primary Principals Association (NZCPPA) who will distribute the funds to Catholic primary schools in need.

Our **Board of Trustees** had their first meeting of the school year. Joannes Bermudez was elected as our new Presiding Member.

Moving March Our school is participating in Movin' March. Children are encouraged to walk, bike or scooter at least part of the way to school.

This term we are looking forward to our **Cultural Week** where members of the children's families are invited to come into the school and share something of their own culture to the children. The children will also be encouraged to wear their traditional costumes or colours from their culture.



This photo was taken during the Cultural Day 2022 – the children wore their traditional costumes or colours that represented their country.

Stories of Hope

We are very proud of two of St Francis Xavier students who are student leaders this year at their Catholic secondary schools.

Ryan Mallon – Deputy Head Boy St Patrick’s College Wellington

Logan Vaoliko – Head Girl St Mary’s College Wellington

Year 6 students from last year wore a Korowai Cloak as a symbol of their graduation. We are very proud of what they have achieved throughout their stay at school. We wish them well in their new journey.



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Mass Times in Nearby Parishes

Our Lady of Hope parish times highlighted.

Saturday vigil	5:00pm	St Francis of Assisi, Johnsonville *
	5:30pm	St Pius X, Titahi Bay
	6:00pm	St Teresa’s, Plimmerton & Holy Family, Porirua
Sunday	8:30am	Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa
	9:30am	St Teresa’s, Plimmerton & Holy Family, Porirua
	10:00am	Te Ngākau Tapu (Māori Mass)
	10:00am	St Francis of Assisi, Johnsonville *
	10:30am	Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa
	5:15pm	Te Ngākau Tapu (English Mass)

***Note: Ohariu parish of St Francis of Assisi now has only one church in Johnsonville. The churches in Newlands and Khandallah are now closed and all masses are in Johnsonville. Sts Peter and Paul church has been renamed St Francis of Assisi, the parish name.**

Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

Baptisms

Name of child	Parents	Date
Jonathan Tasesa Gavin Kiasi	Ashleigh Gibbs & Tasesa Kiasi	19 November 2022
Franchesca Jeanelle D Batucan	Jennielyn & Ivan Batucan	8 December 2022
Yves Christiane R (Bella) Bernal	Ferriza & Vann Bernal	17 December 2022
Chinemelum Kingsley Jnr Ihejirika	Amarachukwu & Kingsley Ihejirika	17 December 2022
Jemima Clare Haggis	Lucy & Michael Haggis	8 January 2023
Frieda Peggy Elizabeth Hall	Jane Armstrong & Patrick Hall	8 January 2023
Peti-iti Wharewaka-Paulo	Sherrie Wharewaka-Paulo & Peti Paulo	29 January 2023
Teuila Kahurangi-Psalms Paulo	Sherrie Wharewaka-Paulo & Peti Paulo	29 January 2023
Prilton-Aleigha Blakelock	Odette Tufue & Talitiga Blakelock	5 February 2023



Deaths

Christina Maria Tomasi	4 November 2022
Dianne Gail Walford	10 December 2022
Evol John Francis (John) Connolly	17 December 2022
Armando (Mandy) Mangat	17 January 2023
Gloria Greeley	28 January 2023

May they rest in peace

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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>.

Preparing for a funeral

Most Catholics prefer their funeral service or requiem to be held in the church. You may be preparing a funeral for a relative who is not Catholic and has expressed wishes to hold their service elsewhere.

At Ninness we have a purpose built, air conditioned chapel with a full sound system which seats 90 people, with an overflow area for many more. If required, we have a list of celebrants from which we can select one to suit your family.

For any venue, an organist or other musician can be arranged, if required, though some churches have their own organist. We have a portable sound system for playing music and pre-recorded hymns/songs/tunes for you to select, if you wish.

We can arrange flowers for the casket, the church and for use at 'memory time'. After the service they can be taken home or sent as a gift to a rest home or hospital. A personalised book can be prepared for the funeral service so that those who attend can record their names.

For all these services, the gratuity is a set amount for each one and is usually paid to the provider by the funeral director on your behalf.

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 – 29 March

Wednesday – 26 April

Wednesday - 31 May

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

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

