



Stories of HOPE

July 2023

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

Congratulations Sr Francine sm



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: 3 November 2023. The date will also be advertised in the weekly newsletter nearer the time and may vary from the one shown.

Disclaimer

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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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From the Editor

by Jane Langham



This edition of Stories of Hope really feels to me to be exactly what it should be about - the joys, sorrows and journeys of our parishioners. Whilst it is important that we are aware of and, when appropriate, take action about the big issues facing our country and the world, it is a fact that our daily lives are more focussed on what is happening to our own family and friends.

So it is that in this issue we remember three very long-time parishioners who have recently died. We also celebrate with those marking significant milestones. See pages 24-27 for these family records. A very special celebration recently was the 60th Jubilee of Sister Francine SM, which warranted a parish morning tea. (p.16) This is accompanied by a reflection from Sr Francine on the celebrations both here and in Auckland to mark this occasion. (p.14) There will be a 'Part 2' in the next edition, on her vocation journey.

I'm thrilled to see a contribution from Sophia, one of our junior parishioners. It would be really great to have more such articles from other young people. (p.18)

Ian and Bernie have both been thinking about the coming election - something that I am sure is on the minds of all of us. We know it is our duty to vote to ensure the survival of democracy, and for the good governance of our country. But deciding which party and which individuals best align with our Christian and Catholic values can be a real challenge. Bernie and Ian give us different ways of thinking about this, with much food for thought. (p.5 and P.11)

There are also online tools to help with our decision-making: A useful website is:



<https://votecompass.tvnz.co.nz/>

This site shows how your views align with proposed policies of the various parties. You can also then 'weight' your responses with which issues are most important to you. I was quite surprised when I tried out the questionnaire - it showed that perhaps I'm not informed

about some of the policies of some parties, but rely on past assumptions.

Some of the articles in this edition may encourage you to read further on the topic - there are useful links included to facilitate this, or you can just search online for the topic. Automatic links are in the online version of the magazine, if you prefer.

Enjoy your reading and God keep you all safe and warm through Winter.

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Safeguarding the Common Good

by Ian Munro



This time three years ago, I wrote about Pope Francis’s view of politics as “*a lofty vocation*” and how the world’s politicians were being judged on their management, or mismanagement, of the turmoil of the pandemic.

Three years on, it seems that that turmoil hasn’t lessened but grown - a war in Europe with nuclear undertones, unrest elsewhere including growing tensions in our own sphere of interest, the global creep of autocracy, ongoing issues with social media, fake news and ‘alternative facts’, and the recent advent of yet another threat - an out-of-control, or misuse of, artificial intelligence.

If that wasn’t enough, there’s the financial strife brought about by continued supply line difficulties, inflation, and the increasing number and severity of climatic disasters all contributing to cost of living issues.

In 2020, the pandemic focussed our leaders on keeping us safe and limiting the financial impact, which was quite a juggle. In 2023, with many, many more balls in the air to be juggled, the imperatives are much the same – keeping us safe and limiting the financial impact of the turmoil enveloping us.

It brought back to my mind something Pope Francis wrote in *Evangellii Gaudium* that I had noted in 2020: “*It is the responsibility of the State to safeguard and promote the common good of society.*”¹

As campaigning for this election began to ramp up, I felt some uncertainty about what I might want from the next government. There are so many more factors in play related to the common good than in 2020 and they’re all relevant to the decision to be made on election day.

So it seemed a re-read of *Evangellii Gaudium* was called for. That focussed me on financial issues because, without money, no government will be able to adequately fund education, health, law and order, defence, infrastructure of all kinds, housing, climate change mitigation, and welfare safety nets.

The market

For the last 40 years we’ve been exposed to an approach that involves ‘the market’ being assigned a sizeable part of the task of delivering the common good. Pope Francis has made some hard-hitting comments about this.

“... some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing

about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralised workings of the prevailing economic system. Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting.”²

The free market is really an artificial construct that only looks after itself and those who manipulate it for their own ends. It follows, therefore, that by itself and because of its very structure, it can't possibly deliver on the common good. Pope Francis refers to this approach as *“resorting to magic theories”* that don't resolve issues facing the common good but *“give rise to new forms of violence threatening the fabric of society”*.³

Fundamental to these theories is the rejection of the right of the state to exercise more than a minimal form of control, the 'small-state' philosophy. *“A new tyranny is thus born, invisible and often virtual, which unilaterally and relentlessly imposes its own laws and rules. ... The thirst for power and possessions knows no limits. In this system, which tends to devour everything which stands in the way of increased profits. Whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenceless before the interests of a deified market.”⁴*

Money rarely trickles down

As the earnings of the minority who control the market grow exponentially, so social imbalance increases. Recently, IRD released the results of its survey of the 311 richest New Zealand families. That so few people have accumulated so much wealth, \$85 billion in fact (\$85,000,000,000), that's effectively taxed at a rate of less than 10%, demonstrates exactly what Pope Francis is saying. The free market is essentially a con job. Money rarely trickles down. Money mostly trickles up. There are those who would argue that, while the personal wealth of a few families does increase enormously, it also allows for businesses to be set up to provide employment and generate income for workers and the government. But that income is actually generated by those employees, the very people who have no opportunity to avoid being taxed at the full, legal rate, such as care workers earning \$27 an hour taxed at 17%.

Pope Francis suggests that political leaders should ponder the words of Saint John Chrysostom. *“Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs”*.⁵ Money, Francis adds, must serve, not rule.

When parts of society are left on the fringes, when the poorest people effectively pay much higher tax rates than the wealthiest, such unjustness and inequality is bound to provoke a violent reaction from those excluded, no matter how much is

spent on law and order and locking people up. *“Just as goodness tends to spread, so too the toleration of evil, which is injustice, tends to expand its baneful influence and quietly to undermine any political and social system, no matter how solid it may appear.”*⁶

A fairer system

Earlier this year, I came across a report on an address by Francis to a delegation from Italy’s tax agency that I thought was relevant. In that address he is reported as saying that a fair taxation system affirms that no citizens are better than others based on their social class, but that everyone is entrusted in good faith to be faithful builders of society. He noted that, done well, taxation *“must favour the redistribution of wealth, looking out for the dignity of the poorest who risk always ending up crushed by the powerful”*.⁷

The fragility of world systems in the face of the pandemic has proven beyond doubt that not everything can be resolved by market freedom or the small-state. It has exposed those who have, globally, bent democracy to their own ends, privatising anything they can with the money going to their pockets and not the common good. In part, the fall-out has been cash-strapped social services and the limited resources governments have been left with to manage the pandemic and the post-pandemic world.

The pandemic has also shown that, in addition to recovering a sound political life that is not subject to the dictates of the ‘market’, *“we must put human dignity back at the centre and on that pillar build the alternative social structures we need”*.⁸

Pope Francis believes that to do this, to make the necessary financial reforms, will require a vigorous change of approach on the part of political leaders. *“I urge them,”* he says, *“to face this challenge with determination and an eye to the future ... to the return of economics and finance to an ethical approach which favours human beings”*.⁹

I think Michael Winters, of the Catholic University of America’s Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies, responding to *Evangelii Gaudium* puts it quite nicely. *“This is a pastor’s voice. He’s saying, ‘If we are serious Christians, we need to be knee-deep in this stuff’”*.¹⁰

So, it’s now on me, and you, to hear our pastor’s voice and wade into this stuff over the remainder of the campaigning and consider seriously the sort of policies and government that we feel can deliver for the common good after 14 October.

1. Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 240, Rome, 2013.
2. *Ibid.*, 54.
3. Pope Francis, [Fratelli Tutti](#), 168, Rome, 2020.

4. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 56.
5. *Ibid.*, 57.
6. *Ibid.*, 59.
7. Nicole Winfield, Associated Press, Rome, 1 February 2022.
8. *Fratelli Tutti*, 168.
9. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 58.
10. Michael Winters, The Washington Post, Washington DC, 26 November 2013.

You may wish to read the whole of [Evangelii Gaudium](#) You can find it easily with your online search engine (Google etc.) [Back](#)

Update on Sr Joy-Marie Holden MC

We are blessed to have a community of the Missionaries of Charity serving the community on our doorstep in Porirua. You may have sometimes seen them in their distinctive blue and white habits attending Mass in our parish, or perhaps doing the shopping in Pak’N’Save.



One of the early community leaders said: *New Zealand is a first world country, yet many people experience both material poverty and the poverty of being unloved and unwanted. In Porirua, (the sisters) touch the lives of people in nursing homes, young people who have lost their way and are looking for meaning and purpose, those with a lived experience of mental and emotional distress and those suffering from the poverty of loneliness. These people are expressions of God’s presence in our midst. Since we cannot see God, we must love God in the presence of the poor we encounter every day.*

(Sr Matilda at a community event in May 2012)

Sr Joy-Marie (Brenda) Holden was born and grew up in Tawa. She joined the Missionaries of Charity and spent her formation years overseas. After final profession on Pentecost Sunday (23 May) 2021, she joined the community of Sisters based in Porirua – as this was during the Covid pandemic, her home country of New Zealand was the only place she was allowed entry.

Earlier this year, with borders now open, she was transferred to a new mission in Brisbane, Australia.

Please continue to pray for her and the work of the Sisters in Porirua and around the world. [Back](#)

Catholic Teaching on Cremation and the Burying of the Ashes

by Fr John van der Kaa



When my youngest brother died last year, his body was taken unaccompanied to a crematorium 50 km away from his home town.

Six weeks later, his widow received the ashes. Most of the ashes were placed in a normal-sized urn. Some, the higher quality ones, were in a small container, which could be used in jewellery. A few weeks ago, the priest who is a friend of the family, blessed the soil in the back garden, where the ashes were buried.

This experience made me ask the question: What does the Catholic Church teach about cremation and the treatment of the ashes?

Teaching on this subject can be found in a document called [*Piam et constantem*](#) (*Reverent and unbroken*) dating back to 1963 and there is also a letter from the NZ Catholic Bishops from 2016.

The reverent, unbroken practice of burying the bodies of the faithful departed is something the Church has always taken pains to encourage.

*It has seemed the wiser course, however, to **relax** somewhat the prescriptions of canon law touching on cremation, for two reasons:*

**That the difficulties arising from contemporary circumstances may not be increased*

**That the need for dispensation may not arise too often.*

PIAM ET CONSTANTEM (reverent and unbroken) 1963

Because of difficulties, such as overcrowding of cemeteries and costs, dispensation is no longer needed.

The teaching of the NZ Catholic Bishops from 28 October 2016 states:

“The loss of a loved one is a significant time for every family. It is a time when we rightly give thanks for the life of our loved ones but it is also the time for us to look forward. This is why our Catholic celebration of the funeral liturgies leads people into the death and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery that most illuminates the Christian meaning of death.

In recent days the Church has reminded us that our Catholic practice is to treat a person’s ashes as we would the body, that is, with care and reverence.

For this reason, when cremation of the body is chosen, we are asked that the ashes of our loved one are laid to rest in a wahi tapu, a sacred place, such as at a cemetery, or a columbarium, church or surrounding area that has been blessed and set aside for this purpose.

The place of rest then becomes a wonderful sign of the promise the risen Lord makes to us of being reunited with our loved one and with Jesus in glory. The place of rest also ensures an appropriate and sacred place for pilgrimage for loved ones and future generations to visit and pay respect to their forebears and tipuna, knowing with certainty that this is the place of rest for their earthly remains as they await the great day of resurrection.”

A final note: There was a time when the Catholic Church did not allow cremation, because it was seen as going against the idea of the resurrection of our bodies at the end of time.

Many Catholics think that this is still the official teaching, but this is not so.

I recommend that we follow the instructions of our NZ bishops. The ashes can be buried with the same ritual as for the interment of the body .

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If you wish to make sure that your wishes are carried out after your death, especially if you wish to ensure there is a Requiem Mass, you can prepare your own funeral service in advance.

This is perhaps the spiritual equivalent of making your will.

Make sure that your loved ones have a copy of your wishes and you can also leave a copy in the parish office, if you wish.

Look up Catholic Funerals NZ for the website to enable you to do all that is needed. <http://www.catholicfunerals.co.nz/>

You can also get a helpful booklet from the parish office

The Thorns of Dissonance *by Bernie Griffin*



“There’s always been dissonance with the Church and politics.”

George was in one of his philosophical moods, and I knew more would come. We were having coffee while peering through the cafe window at traffic crawling bumper to bumper both ways along Tawa’s main street. Inevitably, the price of fuel broke into our thoughts, along with inflation in general. Then our discussion focused on the forthcoming election. Fortunately, we’re both on the same side of the political divide, so there’s no real argument there ... but ‘dissonance’ was something, a word or even a term I had not heard from him before.

“In fact, you could say politics is the big enemy,” he said somewhat absent-mindedly, stirring the cream and cinnamon into his large black coffee.

“The big enemy?”

“It’s the dark side of life,” he said, and I wondered if he was being deliberately metaphoric as he stared into his cup.

“I don’t know what you mean,” I said, hesitantly. “Some of our best leaders have been devout Christians.” I emphasised the word ‘devout’, although not sure how you can define someone as being devout when you only have an inkling about who they are and what they say they stand for.

George continued: “What I mean is that a close analysis shows that Christianity and politics are virtual opposites. That’s what I mean by dissonance. Friction. They’re in opposition. Always will be. There’ll always be tension around what’s the right thing to do ... what is morally correct ... and what is convenient.”

“I think you’re overstating things,” I said, fumbling for the right words.

“All right, then,” he said. “Go right back to the very beginning. Who was it killed Jesus? Crucified him for their own political motives? That’s dissonance, for you, in a big way. And there’s been any number of examples throughout history.”

He sat back with a glint in his eyes. End of story.

Our conversation could quickly turn into a debate if I wasn’t careful, something I didn’t want. I had been hoping for a quiet coffee in a pleasant atmosphere and perhaps a mild discussion about how the voting would go in October. Debating with George hadn’t been on the agenda. But I plugged on.

"I'm not sure this dissonance of yours is such an issue in this day and age. We're instructed that it's our duty to vote and that we should pray for guidance; listen to our conscience. It's up to us to understand the arguments, think about the policies and then make an informed and reasoned decision. The Church doesn't dictate who to vote for or how to vote. The final decision's ours."

I could see that George was winding up: "Yes. But how often is that decision a choice between Christianity -- Catholic teaching, Catholic doctrine on the one side -- and expediency on the other?"

I thought about it for a second or two.

"So what you're really saying is that for us here in the parish of Our Lady of Hope in the Porirua Basin, we'll never get it absolutely right. When we vote, it's a compromise. There're always differences."

"What I'm saying is that Christians will always struggle with what I call the friction between Christianity and politics, especially in a secular society where many people strongly oppose our own particular values and beliefs. You could say that large numbers of those are good people. But compromise doesn't always come into it. It can be straight-out dissonance, friction."



Aren't you creating problems where they don't really exist', I said. "Does that help us in trying to decide who to vote for? It sounds too complicated." I was feeling a bit lost and my coffee had gone cold. "How do you approach it?"

Well, like you, I've heard it from the pulpit, many times over the years, so we should be familiar with Catholic teachings ... "

"Some people find the whole system a bit of a charade, too complicated and difficult and they don't bother to vote at all," I put in.

"Is that the answer when people have fought and died for our right to be free, died to preserve our democratic values? Don't we have a duty, as you mentioned, to honour those sacrifices?"

We sat there quiet for a while as the lines of traffic continued outside. I had the lingering feeling I had been told off.

"Look," said George emphatically. "All I said was there will always be dissonance between religion and politics." He smiled wryly: "Get used to it and pray for

guidance.” “A big ask,” I mused. “How do you get that message across, if at all?”

George prepared to leave. “That’s a thorny question, but a Thomas Aquinas quote comes to mind:”

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary.

To one without faith, no explanation is possible.

Three things are necessary for our salvation:

To know what we ought to believe

To know what we ought to desire

To know what we ought to do. St. Thomas Aquinas

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Faith

F - fantastic

A - adventure

I - in

T - trusting

H - Him

Tools for Trusting God

- Thanksgiving – Praise God in all circumstances
- Live in the present moment
- Become more familiar with the Word of God – this is God’s love-letter to us. Take one line of Scripture each and every day (it can be the same line for several days) and keep coming back to it.
- Surrender whatever bothers us – acknowledge it, name it, put it into the hands of Jesus

From a homily of Fr Oisín Martin, Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, in Medjugorje, June 2022

<https://marytv.tv/english-homily-in-mediugorje-2/?smid=ikKNuxsfJ8u&slid=IRBKmbjFsDA>

A Diamond Anniversary *by Sr Francine McGovern SM*

In the first of two articles, Sister Francine McGovern, reflects on her celebration of sixty years since she accepted the call to a life of service inspired by Mary.

I was professed on 14th January 1963, in the Marist Sisters' Chapel, Merrylands, NSW. Mary and Margaret Mary, two Australian girls, entered the novitiate of the Marist Sisters at the same time as I did. Together, we undertook the preparation for making a religious commitment through the three vows of Chastity, Obedience, and Poverty. This included a year as a postulant, a further year as a novice, and then a year as a scholastic before making our first profession and temporary vows.

Margaret Mary took her final vows with Sister Mary and me, but later left the Order and is now married with a family. Sister Mary spent many years in the outback of Queensland, but is now back in Sydney and adjusting to a different way of life.

Marist celebration

Each year, Marist Sisters celebrate anniversaries when we meet at the annual Assembly in Mt Albert. This year, our day of celebration was 3rd June and I felt very privileged to be celebrating my 60 years with two companions and former teaching colleagues, Sisters Patricia, 75 years professed, and Juliana, 70 years. I taught with



Sister Patricia at Marist Sisters' College, in Mt Albert Auckland, where Sister Juliana was Principal for 23 years. I also share a Tawa connection with Sisters Patricia and Juliana, as they also lived here for a time.

Father Pat Breeze, who lectures at the Marist Fathers' Seminary, offered the Mass and Patricia, Juliana and I chose the readings and hymns. It was all very beautiful. When we recited our vows at the offertory and it came to my turn, everything just went blank and I needed a prompt. I won't do that for my 70th, I have decided, because I will have a piece of paper with my commitment written out!

Mass was followed by a catered lunch, and later in the afternoon three speakers spoke briefly about each of us, before presents were opened and a cake, provided by one of our ex-students, was cut.

Celebrations in Tawa

Back in Tawa, at the offertory of a Saturday morning Mass, I was surprised when Father Rico called me to the front to receive a blessing. A morning tea, which had been arranged by several of our generous parish ladies, followed the Mass.

Soon after, a notice of congratulations appeared in the Happenings, accompanied by an invitation to parishioners to attend a Mass, which was to be offered for my intentions the following Friday. This Mass was celebrated by Father Pene, who also gave me a special blessing.

A lovely morning tea was provided by a parishioner who didn't want to be named, and Larry, from Ninness Funeral Home, arrived with a huge bouquet of flowers. When I saw him, my first thought was, I'm not ready to go yet!

At the Seniors' July luncheon, my Anniversary was also honoured when Eileen Mackey made a short speech and presented me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

I am grateful for the blessings of my vocation and have felt overwhelmed by the kindness of Fathers Rico and Pene, and Jane Lee, and for the love and friendship of Our Lady of Hope parishioners. You are in my heart and in my prayers.



Who are the Marist Sisters?

We are a Religious Congregation of women who form one branch of a 'family tree' which also includes Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM), Marist Fathers, Marist Brothers, Marist Teaching Brothers and Marist Laity, who together form the Society of Mary.

Our Mission:

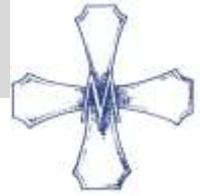
Called by a gracious choice to follow Christ
by living the Gospel as Mary did

There are lay Marist groups in Tawa.
Ask Sr Francine for more details.

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Sr Francine McGovern SM - 60th Jubilee Celebration



On Friday 9th June, the morning Mass was a celebration to mark the 60th anniversary for Sr Francine becoming a Marist Sister

There was a large number present to celebrate with her and witness/take part in blessing her.

As it said on the cover of the Order of Service: *Thank you for the wonderful unsung work you do for our parish in a spirit of kindness and love.*

After Mass, there was morning tea (provided by a generous donor), during which there was a presentation of flowers and wine from the parish, made by Marie Prescott (PPC chair).

There was also a bouquet presented by Larry Greco on behalf of Ninness Funeral Home, in recognition of Sr Francine's assistance at so many funerals.





In her response, Sr Francine said: *I am so grateful to God for bringing me here to 60 years I have so many people to thank ... including my first piano teacher, who gave me free lessons ... and now music is my constant companion. ...*

The Lord is with us all and everything is gift.

Congratulations
Sr Francine, and thanks
from us all!



Photos:
Monique Lopez

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The Story of What I do at Church

by Sophia Lopez

Hi! My name is Sophia Lopez, I'm 10 years old and in year 6 at St Francis Xavier School. Here is a story about my experience doing some stuff at church.

The whole story starts a long time ago, when I was 4 or 5, when I became a 'Bible bearer' for children's liturgy. My mum was one of the children's liturgy leaders while my brother was doing altar serving. Then, when I finished my sacramental programme last year, I joined my brother as an altar server too. All of us were busy! I know my dad helps Fr. Rico and Mrs. Andrewartha in IT stuff, too.



Last year, when I was a year 5, I joined the scripture reading contest! Me being me, I decided to choose the longest reading among the choices that I could see. I told my mum about it, so we started to practise. My mum was telling me no matter what happens in that contest is totally fine and that what matters more is what I do in real life.

So after practicing and waiting for weeks, the contest happened in class! I got into the next round, which is for all of Year 5. But sadly in that next round I only got third, so I didn't get into the interschool competition, but that was fine.

Around that time there was an invitation for young readers to read at mass. Since I had already done the scripture reading contest I felt like 'why don't I just do it?' So I told my mum, "yes, I wanted to do it, like her". I was very excited! Soon my mum told me that my first time to read would be on August 14th (2022) so we did the same practising we did for the scripture reading contest, but we didn't have as much time. Anyway, we did it together. I read the psalm and I was extremely nervous! And also excited for it. So, after that first time, I felt relieved that it was over because I was very worried. After the mass, there were some people who came to greet me

for doing it and they said it was good! Of course I felt good about it too!

And yeah! I really like reading and I still do it today at the 8:30 Sunday mass and sometimes on Monday morning, when it's school holiday. And I still feel nervous, but it is also really fun for me because I like reading. I still do altar serving too, which I also enjoy because I get to do it with my friends!

From these experiences, I have learnt that no matter who you are, how you think you are, what age you are, you can still do anything if you find joy in it and just think of God, who you are doing it for.

That's it! God bless you!

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Calling all Young Parishioners

Would you like to have your ideas and experiences included in this magazine? If you have news of a school or parish group, or you do something special in the community, we would love you to share it with everyone. Or perhaps you have a story of how your faith has grown over time or because of a particular experience?

It would be great if you are inspired by Sophia's story and would like to become involved with one of the ministries at Mass, or with one of the service groups (Legion of Mary, St Vincent de Paul, Young Vinnies). You can contact the Parish Office (232 5611 or email ourladyofhope@xtra.co.nz) to be put in touch with the right person. Everyone can help with the collection, offertory procession, or operating the projector.

To become a reader or altar server, you must have completed the Sacramental Programme and be a regular Mass attender.

St Pius X School - by *Nenah Kelemete (Principal)*



Term 2 at Saint Pius X has been a significant time for us.

While we have had much to celebrate, we also had to farewell our beloved Angeline O'Connor who was adored by staff, students, parents and school community. (See obituary for Angeline on page 26)



Our **Noho Marae** stay in early May was a wonderful event. Experiences such as this are key to learning and making memories.



The **Vinnies** group at Saint Pius X have enjoyed visiting Kemp Rest Home and hearing stories that were shared with them by residents. Stories that were so different and yet also had a lot of similarities to their own experiences.



Kindness and empathy were reflected and recognised on both sides.

Amanda Joe, the Vinnies leader, has taken them to help out at the St Vincent de Paul shop in Johnsonville and they have also gathered resources for other schools, outside New Zealand, who are in need.

Bush Sprouts has started this term. This involves outside play, discovery and learning about the outdoors. Students have had the opportunity to be in nature and get muddy!



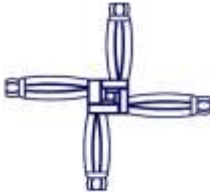
We have also been busy with **Samoan Language** week, **netball**, **swimming**, year 6's visiting **Bishop Viard College**, **YCC day** (Caritas), **Jumping June** and our end of term **disco**.

In the second week of June, St Pius X were blessed to have the **Te Ahi Ora** visit and teach our tamariki for several days with the skills needed to safely fire dance. In the evenings the whanau joined us for the display. What an incredible achievement and definitely a highlight of our term.

It has been another great term of learning at St Pius X School and we look forward to the next. Thank you to all the amazing people who have shared in our learning. Next term we are looking forward to celebrating Matariki with a school concert in week two.

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St Francis Xavier School -by Joan Woods (Principal)



We have had an exciting term of learning at St Francis Xavier School.

Early in the term, our Year 5 and 6 students spent 4 days at El Rancho camp in Waikanae. The children embraced the range of outdoor

St Francis Xavier School
Strength and Gentleness

activities that were offered, including Kayaking and raft building.

When the weather meant that they were indoors, rock climbing was popular.

While the senior students were at camp the rest of the school enjoyed a week of activities outside the classroom. These included a day at Avalon Park and the Play Trailer of equipment from Nuku Ora (Healthy Active learning).



This included a wide range of outdoor sporting equipment and games, such as balls, parachute, scooters and Connect Four, for children to use and explore.



Tree Planting at Takapū Valley This term two classes were involved tree planting at Takapū Valley. This was part of the Kids Enhancing Tawa Ecosystems (KETE) community restoration programme at the head of the Takapū Valley. The aim of this project is to work together along with other Tawa schools over the planting season to plant approximately 6000 plants. The children learnt how to weed and plant trees and were very proud of what they achieved.

Catholic Character Review Earlier this year, we were visited by the team of reviewers from the Catholic Education Office who carried out a review of our school's Catholic Character. Below are some of the comments from the report that was written following the review.

The school provides ongoing Catholic spiritual formation to assist individuals to deepen their personal relationship with Christ in an environment where diverse cultures are acknowledged and included. The school's vision, 'we believe, we learn, we grow', and its Brigidine values, 'strength and gentleness, Tū Māia Tū Aroha', are taught, modelled and promoted.

Students from diverse cultures expressed their appreciation and sense of belonging that their culture is valued, especially through the spiritual life of the school.

The culture of the school is characterised by warm relationships at all levels, friendly communications and a sense that all are treated with respect.

Enrolments for 2022 We recently held our **Five Next Term party** for children starting school in Term 3. The children spent an afternoon in Kōwhai Class. This was an opportunity for the children to meet their future class members and for family members to meet each other and staff. The children enjoyed sharing afternoon tea together and Kōwhai Class members showed their classroom off to the new students.

If you have a child who will turn five between now and the start of Term 1, 2024, please ring the school office (phone 232 8927) for an Enrolment Pack or visit our website www.sfxtawa.school.nz for more information regarding enrolment forms and procedures. I am very happy to meet with any new prospective parents.

Opportunities for Parents Learning Conferences were held over two evenings this term. This is when parents and children meet with the teacher to share about the child and their learning.

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

Matariki Children have been learning about Matariki and in the last week of term the school celebrated Matariki with an evening at school. This was an opportunity for families to visit classrooms seeing what the children had learnt and to take part in some Matariki activities.

Our wonderful Parents and Friends group provide a sausage sizzle and hot Milo for everyone to enjoy during their visit.



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Paul & Jane Langham Celebrate 50 years of Marriage

On Friday 28th May, Jane and Paul, along with Jane's sister Angela and husband Alan Mellier, were given a special blessing by Fr Pene at the end of Mass. This was to mark 50 years of marriage for Jane and Paul, and 40 years for Angela and Alan. Angela had been Jane's bridesmaid and they had come from their home in Australia for this celebration.



On the following Sunday, there was an afternoon tea for family and friends.



Paul and Jane with their children and grandchildren.

The End of an Era: Mark Lenihan

by Vince Kerr

One of our oldest parishioners, Mark Lenihan, passed away on 9 May 2023, aged 101 years, at Waikanae Lodge. He was farewelled from the parish on 15 May with a funeral mass celebrated in style by Fr Pene.

Many of our present parishioners would not have known Mark or his lovely wife, Frances, as they were unable to attend Mass in recent years, because of infirmity, and later moved to care in Waikanae. However, we couldn't let the occasion go without a mention.

Before age caught up with them, and the Waikanae move, they were regular attendees at Our Lady of Fatima for nearly 70 years. Of latter years, they had their spot in church on the left side towards the back. Both were great parishioners and extremely nice people, though quiet in nature.

Mark and Frances moved to Tawa/Linden in 1952, originally living in Coates Street where they raised their 3 boys, Paul, Kevin and Owen. Sadly, another son passed away at a very early age. In later life they moved to Nathan Street where they lived until their shift to Waikanae.

Sadly, Frances passed away on 15 October 2021, aged 96, and because of Covid and other restrictions the Parish was unable to farewell her in Our Lady of Fatima.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family on their sad loss.

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Honouring Angeline O'Connor

by Julie de Boer

2 November 1957—16 May 2023

Angeline worked faithfully as the Office Administrator at Saint Pius X school in Titahi Bay for an impressive 37 years.

She always took things in her extremely capable stride, dealing with anything from grazed knees to school accounts in the course of a day.



Many whānau members and regular visitors to St Pius X kura commented on how welcome Angeline made them feel and, as the first point of contact for many, her calm, friendly manner was invaluable to us. Her sense of humour was appreciated by all her colleagues.

Angeline's faith was an important part of her life and she enjoyed sharing in the faith journeys of the tamariki at school. She was a beautiful person; we remember her with much love.

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.

*I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways—
of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun
of happy memories that I leave when my life is done.*

By Carol Merkel



Remembering Julie Smith

by Margaret Weaver



Julie (nee Armstrong) came to Tawa with her family when she was a teenager. She travelled to England for her 'big OE' before marrying Russell and settling down in Tawa to raise their three children Gregory, Melinda and Rebecca.

She was a dedicated teacher and spent many years at St Francis Xavier school (as well as shorter stints at other Tawa schools) where she was Director of Religious Education. During her long teaching career she taught two generations of several families and always took a keen interest in the future life of past pupils.

Her faith was very important to Julie and she took an active part in the parish. She served on the Committee of the Catholic Women's League for a long time and also organised one of the Passionist Family Groups until Covid put a halt to everything.

Julie was an excellent tennis player and played at A grade level for a number of years. When she retired she took up golf with the same enthusiasm.

In 1998 Julie was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease (IBM), but she was determined that it would not spoil her life. She and Russell travelled extensively for a while and she enjoyed her trips immensely, in spite of several visits to foreign hospitals. She had some great tales to tell.

Because of her condition, and her determination not to give in to it, Julie endured many falls resulting in broken bones and other injuries, which meant long stays in hospital. But Julie always remained very positive, cheerful and interested in everything that was going on. She spent many hours on the phone talking to her friends and family, keeping up to date with all their news

The last few years were especially hard for Julie as her condition became progressively worse. However, she learnt to play bridge and played with friends once a week at her home, in between visits from carers and her physiotherapist.

About six weeks before she died, Julie fell and cracked her pelvis. When I visited her in hospital, all she wanted to do, in spite of being in a lot of pain, was to get walking again so that she could return home. However, that was not to be.

Julie was a wonderful, caring friend and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

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Remember that you can access *Stories of Hope* online

The parish web site: ourladyofhope.org.nz has this magazine edition and also an archive of past editions. You can also access the weekly newsletters on the web site.

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 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
Milla Pia Ann WATSON	Grace Quinn & Jarrod Watson	5 March 2023
Romy Lusya BRYAN	Leanne Miekle & Alexander Bryan	5 March 2023
Genevieve Jovanka Ailyn PURNOMO	Ketty Setiadi & Ferrianto Purnomo	18 March 2023
Erin Marie HIGGINS	Antoinette Kavanagh & Michael Higgins	19 March 2023
Adi Karolina Heilani Lewasau LOGAVATU	Amy Logavatu-Sio & Ratu Logavatu	25 March 2023
Eliza Mary-Rose BECKER	Joanne & Craig Becker	20 May 2023
Zhane Io OLIVEROS	Jeneper Oliveros & Roi Samudio	4 June 2023
Eloise Jane WINTER	Marnela & Tristan Winter	10 June 2023
Amirah Louise Ila TUULIMA	Aliysha & Isaac Tuulima	25 June 2023

Deaths

Margaret Anne (Maggie) MacDougall	20 March 2023
Brenda Leigh Norris	26 March 2023
Felicja Juchnowicz	1 April 2023
John William Gray	9 April 2023
John Ido de Bernardo	18 April 2023
Brian McKeown	25 April 2023
Allan Vernon Rattee	17 April 2023
Margaret Kathleen Brenton	7 May 2023
Mark Richard Lenihan	9 May 2023
Patricia Rose Caskey	16 May 2023
Julie Ann Smith	24 May 2023
Bryan William Hannan	2 June 2023

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New Parishioners

If you are new to the parish, Welcome!

Please introduce yourself to the celebrant, another parishioner,
or call/visit the parish office 9:30am -12:00pm Tuesday-Friday: (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, Jonathan Curr, Denise Dorman, Ted Gallen, Ramesh Ganesan, Nicola O’Keeffe, Tea Teofilo, Hans Wirawan.

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>.

Please remember Ninness when the time comes that you need their services for your loved one's funeral, or for planning/paying for your own funeral in advance

Ninness support our parish by printing all copies of this magazine (and have done so for many years).

They are also supportive in other ways and acknowledge the work of those in the parish who are important at times of grief and mourning.

Sr Francine frequently plays the organ for funerals in our parish, and this was acknowledged with a bouquet presented by Larry Greco from Ninness at her 60th Jubilee celebration.



For further helpful information, visit the [Ninness Funeral Home website](http://ninness.co.nz)

Shuttle Service to Whenua Tapu Cemetery

Ninness Funeral Home provides a complimentary shuttle service for people who either do not have their own transport or where the cemetery is not on a public transport route. The shuttle runs to Whenua Tapu cemetery every month (excluding December) on the last Wednesday.

Whenua Tapu Shuttle - dates for the coming months

Wednesday – 30 August

Wednesday – 27 September

Wednesday - 25 October

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.





Brenden Jacobsen



Larry Greco

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