



Stories of HOPE

March 2025

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



*Learning to Share the Good News
through Music and Song*

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: 4 July 2025. 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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Marie Andrewartha, Denise Dorman, Brian Lang, Jane Langham, Dawn Laureles, Jane Lee, Ian Munro, Teresa Rayner, Miriam Siave, Joan Woods, and several weekday mass attendees.

From the Editor

by Jane Langham



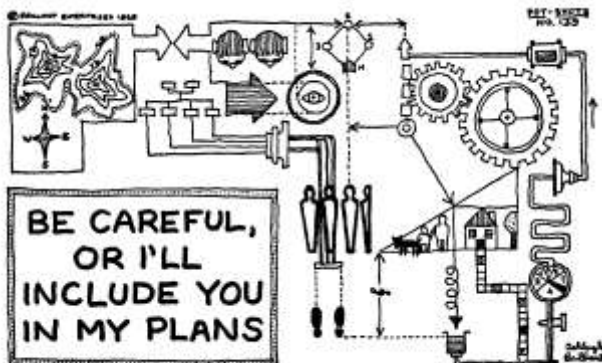
As we approach Holy Week and Easter once again, it feels as if the whole world is on a 'Way of the Cross'. This Jubilee Year's theme of Hope can give us a lifeline to hold on to, to save us from despair. [See p. 14](#) for more about this Jubilee of Hope.

Ian shows us how Pope Francis encourages us not to take ourselves too seriously - laughter can lighten many loads. [\(p.6\)](#)

As also can a re-creative time away in a retreat setting. During January, many of our younger parishioners attended Life Teen or Hearts Aflame camps. Miriam gives her account of attending Life Teen, [\(p.13\)](#) including experiencing the gift of a 'missionary' leader from the US. In our last edition, Katie shared her story of being a Life Teen 'missionary' leader to the US during their summer. Isn't it interesting how 'going on mission' is a gift to both sides? The visitor and the visited. Perhaps you have been to some form of retreat or renewal event? It would be great if you can share with the parish how it was for you and your faith journey. ([Details on p.2](#) for sending material for publication.) Teresa updates us on her journey with the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters. [\(p.16\)](#) She also attended the Life Teen retreat in January whilst on 'home leave'.

There are interesting responses from several parishioners to the weeks of lay-led liturgies we had over December and January. [\(p.10\)](#) Perhaps you would like to send us a longer article on how you see the role of laity in parish life? It could feature in a future edition.

I hope that you will find something in this edition that encourages you on your journey, with all of us together in our parish.



Holy Week Timetable 2025

Monday 14 April	9:00 am	Mass, Tawa
Tuesday 15 April	9:00 am	Mass, Tawa
Wednesday 16 April	9:00 am	Mass, Tawa
	9.30am-9pm	Adoration, Tawa
Holy Thursday 17 April		NO MORNING MASSES
	7:30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper, St Pius X, Titahi Bay followed by Adoration till 11pm
Good Friday 18 April	9:30 am	Procession of all the churches of Tawa begins at the Baptist Church, Main Road.
		Concludes with a Liturgy (finishes before 11 am). Followed by drinks and hot cross buns in the Emmaus Centre.
	11:30 am	Stations of the Cross, Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa
	3:00 pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, OLoF, Tawa
	3:00 pm	Stations of the Cross, St Pius X, Titahi Bay

Easter Masses

Holy Saturday 19 April	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa
Easter Sunday 20 April	8:30 am	Easter Mass, Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa
	10:30 am	Easter Mass, Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa
	9:30 am	Easter Mass, St Pius X, Titahi Bay



... and a time to laugh

by Ian Munro



Have you heard this joke about Pope Francis? I hadn't until just recently. It goes like this.

As soon as Pope Francis arrives at the airport in New York for his apostolic journey in the United States, he finds an enormous limousine waiting for him. He is rather embarrassed by that magnificent splendour, but then thinks that it has been ages since he last drove, and never a vehicle of that kind, and he thinks to himself: OK, when will I get another chance? He looks at the limousine and says to the driver, "You couldn't let me try it out, could you?"

"Look, I'm really sorry, Your Holiness," replies the driver, "but I really can't, you know, there are rules and regulations."

But you know what they say, how the pope is when he gets something into his head ... in short, he insists and insists, until the driver gives in. So Pope Francis gets behind the steering wheel, on one of those enormous highways, and he begins to enjoy it, presses down on the accelerator, going 50 miles per hour, 80, 120 ... until he hears a siren, and a police car pulls up beside him and stops him. A young policeman comes up to the darkened window. The pope rather nervously lowers it and the policeman turns white.

"Excuse me a moment," he says, and goes back to his vehicle to call headquarters.

"Boss, I think I have a problem."

"What problem?" asks the chief.

"Well, I've stopped a car for speeding, but there's a guy in there who's really important." "How important? Is he the mayor?"

"No, no, boss ... more than the mayor."

"And more than the mayor, who is there? The governor?"

"No, no, more. ..."

"But he can't be the president?"

"More, I reckon. ..."

"And who can be more important than the president?"

"Look, boss, I don't know exactly who he is, all I can tell you is that it's the Pope who's driving him!"



Pope Francis retells this joke about himself in his new book, *Hope: The Autobiography*. He has discussed the importance of humour on a number of occasions in the past. He believes that when it becomes hard for us to cry seriously or to laugh passionately, we have become anaesthetised adults who can do nothing good for ourselves, society, or the church.

Most recently, he talked about humour with an invited international audience of comedians. He told them that humour is a precious gift, a gift that can spread peace within our hearts and between peoples, helping us to overcome difficulties and cope with daily stress.

"In your own way," he said in his address to them, "you unite people because laughter is contagious. It is easier to laugh together than alone. ... You denounce abuses of power; you give voice to forgotten situations; you highlight abuses; you point out inappropriate behaviour. You do this without spreading alarm or terror, anxiety or fear, as other types of communication tend to do; you rouse people to think critically by making them laugh and smile."¹

Joy in the Holy Spirit

In his 2018 apostolic exhortation, [Gaudete et Exsultate](#), Francis previously made the point that Christian life is "*joy in the Holy Spirit*" (Rom 14:17) and far from being "*timid, morose, acerbic or melancholy, or putting on a dreary face, the saints are joyful and full of good humour*".

His namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, would refer to himself and his followers as *Jongleurs de Dieu*, or *Troubadours of God*, as they travelled from town to town singing and preaching joyously.

Fundamentalist or overly pious believers in some religions might hold that humour and spirituality are incompatible and, when I reflect on the first two and a half decades of this century, and in particular post-Covid, it seems to me that we have moved

Throughout his life St. Francis was known for his joyous disposition and for "merry-making."

*Author Sophie Jewett writes in her book *God's Troubadour* that St. Francis displayed this joy while in prison after he was captured:*

*In prison or out of it, the heart of Francis of Assisi was always **the heart of the poet, the Troubadour.***

*Because his companions remembered gratefully **the songs and laughter that brightened their captivity**, the story of his gaiety has come down to us across seven hundred years.*

from the hopeful promise of the new millennium of peace and prosperity and lightness of heart and spirit to an age of anger and grievance, too easily taking offence.

I'm certain that so much could be sorted with our legendary Kiwi compassion and sense of humour. Both still exist in many corners of our communities but are loudly and stridently shouted down more readily than those attributes are promoted. Our self-effacing modesty is no match for those with other agendas and we are in danger of becoming an embittered people with any humour having a hard, sarcastic, bullying and generally unpleasant edge to it - humour that does little more than belittle others.

...and a time to laugh

Many seem to be forgetting that there is both *"a time to weep and a time to laugh"* (Eccles 3:4). Joy and laughter are part of our Christian heritage as much as the weeping and sadness. And both are part of simply being human.

Jesuit theologian, Fr Karl Rahner wrote that laughter is first and foremost an affirmation of our humanity. We firstly relate to those telling the jokes or sharing a humorous story and then respond through laughter, which is an expression of solidarity and love.

*"The laughter of daily life announces and shows that one is on good terms with reality. ... Laughter is praise of God because it foretells the eternal praise of God at the end of time, when those who must weep here on earth shall laugh."*²

Humour is usually the only weapon oppressed people have and the shared laughter helps to keep them going. Jewish humour is legendary, and Mahatma Ghandi reportedly remarked that without his sense of humour he would long before have committed suicide.

Humour allows for a sense of proportion, and I think that being able to laugh at our own mistakes and foibles is also important in this sense. It shows a degree of self-awareness and an ability to forgive ourselves, an attribute we need if we are truly to be able truly to forgive others.



**Angels can fly
because they can
take themselves lightly.**

- Gilbert K. Chesterton

Grant me, O Lord, a good sense of humour

In his address to the assembled comedians, Pope Francis tells that he daily prays this prayer of St Thomas More:

Grant me, O Lord, a good sense of humour

Grant me, O Lord, good digestion,
and also something to digest.

Grant me a healthy body,
and the necessary good humour to maintain it.

Grant me a simple soul
that knows to treasure all that is good
and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil,
but rather finds the means
to put things back in their place.

Give me a soul that knows not
boredom, grumbling, sighs and laments,
nor excess of stress,
because of that obstructing thing called 'I'.

Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humour.

Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke
and to discover in life a bit of joy,
and to be able to share it with others. Amen.

I wouldn't go as far as Mark Twain and describe humour as mankind's greatest blessing. There's another contender for that designation. However, I would suggest that the ability to laugh with others and at ourselves is a blessing. I think we need to take advantage of that blessing and heed Pope Francis's advice to do a lot more laughing and take life a little less seriously.

1. [Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to Comedians, Rome, 14 June 2024](#)

2. Karl Rahner, *The Content of Faith: The Best of Karl Rahner's Theological Writing*, Crossroad Publishing, New York, 2013



Liturgy of the Word with Communion

from Parishioners

For several reasons, daily Mass is not available in many, if not most, parishes in NZ. In these situations, there can be a lay-led Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. In our parish there is a dedicated group of ministers of the Eucharist who lead these liturgies twice monthly. From mid-December 2024 to mid-February 2025, whilst Fr Rico was unwell and then when he was away on holiday, there were several days and weeks with no Mass. This parish group prepared and led daily liturgies, alongside Wednesday Mass celebrated by Fr John, and weekend Masses celebrated by locum priests who generously gave their time. What was this experience like, for the leaders and parishioners?

For me it is the receiving of "The Body of Christ" that is important so having liturgies, not Mass, didn't bother me.

Though having said that ... some days I didn't bother because it was a liturgy. So I guess that says that I value a Mass more than liturgy.

The liturgies that we attended were well worth attending. I always went home with some food for thought.

- Yvonne & Fred

It gave me greater insight and understanding of the Scripture as the readings had to be reflected on in context. Also, a greater appreciation of the work of our priests. Jane (leader)

I'm grateful for the parishioners who stepped up to lead the Liturgies. Your efforts allowed us to continue praying and hearing the Word together, and to receive Holy Communion. Although I missed Mass, it was great to hear the different voices and the reflections each of you offered. I thought you all did really well and at the end of the liturgies I felt like saying thank-you. It was also great when some were able to include a personal story or reflection. - Steve

Being a liturgy leader has been a very rewarding experience for me. Firstly, I get great satisfaction from providing an opportunity for parishioners to hear the Word of God and receive the Eucharist when a Priest is not available.

Second, the preparation enables me to study the Scriptures more closely than I would normally do. I find this very rewarding as it deepens my understanding of God's Word. I spend a day or more researching and compiling the liturgy on my iPad and then my husband downloads the text and prints it off for me. This process also gives him exposure to the Word of God. - Evelyn (leader)

I found it quite beautiful that, despite having no priest, the congregation, out of Love for Christ, still showed up to receive the Eucharist. It was a bit strange not having a proper Mass but I think now daily Mass is back I am able to appreciate it more - Michael

I was saddened when Masses were cancelled in our parish. No other liturgy will ever surpass the beauty and holiness of the Mass. Fortunately, I was blessed to be able to visit another parish for frequent Mass during some of this period, a constant reminder of the universal nature of the Catholic Church. For those not able to do this, I am very grateful to the Liturgists who made it possible to hear the Word proclaimed, pray together and receive the Holy Eucharist. It was also a constant reminder to pray for the health and wellbeing of our priests and for more vocations to the priesthood so Masses need not be cancelled in the future.

We are so thankful that we have been able to receive Communion every day when we have not had a priest to say Mass. The liturgies have been meaningful and well prepared, and we have enjoyed hearing the different speakers

We are so lucky and grateful that we have people who have undertaken to lead these important liturgies which kept the parish functioning so well, giving us opportunities to pray and be with other friends and parishioners during the week.
- Margaret & Peter



**Why are atoms Catholic?
Because they have mass!**

It is a sign of the times that Liturgies are being led by the laity. I do not see it as a stop-gap because of the lack of priests but rather as a dynamic shift in what we mean by 'Church'. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, who, through Church leaders, is creating a more Marian Church because, as we all know, Mary has been designated 'Queen of the Apostles' and Mary is a lay person. Pope Francis has led us over the last few years to a Synodal Church where everyone has been asked to step up and make their contribution. These are exciting times! And I see that through the laity the Church will more and more become a dynamic reality through these various contributions of all the people of God. - Ian (leader J'ville)

Liturgy cont ...

As a 'listener' I enjoyed the different perspectives on the reading reflections. I was also appreciative of being able to receive communion when no priests were available.

As a leader of the liturgy, I am always grateful for the depth of material available in the reading for each day. Sometimes it can be difficult to choose an aspect to reflect upon. I prefer to be able to ponder on the readings and to do a little research in preparing a reflection. Where there is short advance notice I tend to choose a more obvious or better-known aspect to reflect upon to meet the tight deadline.

Kevin (leader)

As a daily Mass attendee in Tawa, I would like to express the admiration and gratitude we all share to our Ministers of the Eucharist. A truly great group. When untoward events occur - and there have been many - our Ministers smoothly take over, their gracious and gentle co-operation with each other concealing the hours of preparation they put in, to ensure we always have a prayerful service.

Thank you - Della

So many parishes have nothing on many days each week. We are blessed to have people willing to lead us in prayer and reflection when there can be no Mass. And we are still able to receive the Lord, in Word and Sacrament, as well as Community.

Looking at it from two perspectives – from the pews and from preparing and leading the liturgy.

While a liturgy can never measure up to a Mass, there are times when a liturgy led by lay people is necessary, and we have just experienced such a time. Being able to pray together as the body of Christ and receive Holy Communion in such circumstances have been food for the soul.

I also have been deeply appreciative of listening to the different aspects each leader of the liturgy gave on the Reading and the Gospel.

For myself, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the preparation I undertook for the reflection gave me new insights to help me along my faith journey, I hope it did the same for those in the pews.

Eileen (leader)

Life Teen Camp 2025

by Miriam Siave

Life Teen is a Catholic Youth organization that also has a reach around the world. Many successful parish youth groups use Life Teen as their model. Each year Life Teen NZ holds a Summer Camp for college students, run by volunteer summer missionaries (anyone too old to attend as a participant can apply to be one of the leaders/missionaries). Life Teen Camp 2025 was held from 14-18 January

There were more than 15 young people from our parish and youth group attending as campers, leaders or summer missionaries. Getting up before 5am was less than ideal, but spirits were high when we set off to Life Teen Camp on 14 January.

The four days we spent at St Paul's Collegiate were packed with worship sessions, daily mass, sports and team building activities, comedy shows (thanks Tom), swimming, and food. We were blessed to have a group come over from America including, our group's missionary, Mary Grace, and our guest speaker Matt.

As well as worship sessions and adoration, the Messy Games was a highlight of camp, with activities such as slip'n'slide volleyball and a water balloon version of battleships. For me, the memorable things were: new friends, worship, messy games, mass, inspirational talks, prayer, a talent show, adoration and so much more. It was an incredible experience and one that we are unlikely to forget, thanks to the memories we made and photos that our group's unofficial 'official' photographer took for us (they look great, thanks Maria).

We are so thankful to our Church finance committee for supporting our trip. It was a truly beautiful way to start our faith journey this year



Pilgrims of Hope 2025

from the Archdiocesan Website

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee with the theme ‘Pilgrims of Hope’, giving voice to his desire for the year to foster a greater sense of global sisterhood and brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and caring for the environment.

Jubilees are designed to be a time of conversion and increased emphasis on God’s mercy and forgiveness of sins. They are marked by the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. The Holy Doors, present in each of the four papal basilicas in Rome, are destination points for pilgrims who travel to Rome during a Jubilee and who pass through seeking special graces and outpourings of God’s mercy.



Coming events in Wellington Archdiocese:

24 Hours for the Lord

A Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation celebrated around the world on the eve of the 4th Sunday of Lent. ‘24 Hours for the Lord’ will begin with an Opening Liturgy at **5:30pm on Friday 28th March**, continue through the night and end with the **Vigil Mass at 5:30pm on Saturday 29th March**.

Parishes and communities are invited to take the lead for an hour or two during these 24 hours. Everyone is welcome to visit the Cathedral and spend some time in prayer for peace, healing and hope in our broken world.

There are many more diocesan events throughout the year.

Full details are on the web site.

<https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/jubilee-2025/>



The Jubilee 2025 logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is a well known as a symbol of hope and stability in life's storms.

The image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope - represented in green, the colour of hope.

Logo description used with permission from 'God's Word 2025' St Pauls Publications

Update from the Missionaries of God's Love by Teresa Rayner

How time has flown! I am just beginning my third year with the *Missionaries of God's Love Sisters* in Canberra, entering the second year of my Novitiate. While last year was my 'canonical year,' a time to enter more deeply into discernment and the spirituality of the community, this year is my 'mission year,' where I get to branch out more into various ministries, as well as continuing my studies and initial formation. Thanks to my family and parish upbringing, one area I am excited to get involved in is Children's Ministry for the Disciples of Jesus community that we belong to - made up of lay people, (families and singles of all ages and stages), Religious and Priests. We are so blessed to have many young families who gather regularly with us!

God has done so much over the past two years, I struggle to know where to begin!

In stepping back from the world - media, phones, employment etc ... one of my biggest growths has been an awareness of self and noticing how I am actually feeling and what I am actually thinking. Where previously I might have distracted myself by scrolling social media or binge-watching Netflix, I have little access to those kinds of things here, and a lot of time for reflection. Another area of growth is that one day in prayer, I felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to not write a to-do list, and although it was a struggle at first, I have rarely ever made a to-do list since! I thought the amount of things I needed to do would overwhelm me, but instead, I've been able to live in the moment, asking the Spirit for inspiration as to my activities, and trusting that things will get done. I have had far more peace of mind since - (yes, even though tasks to do are floating around in my mind rather than recorded on paper! It actually works!).

We are not an enclosed order, we are 'contemplatives in action,' and it has been a journey adjusting to just how active we can be at times! We begin and end each day in prayer, with the Divine Office, daily Mass and an hour of silent Adoration - about four hours of prayer a day - but woven around those times are classes on things such as the Catholic Catechism, Personal Development (i.e. how to cope with emotions) and Scripture; spiritual reading, Communion visits, youth events, as well as the everyday fun and antics of a life in community!

I am blessed to be in a household of ten Sisters this year, living alongside our co-founder, the Leader of the Sisters, and four other amazing young women in initial formation with me. The majority of our Sisters are Australian, but from many

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different backgrounds, and at our intercultural night a couple of weeks ago, we had presentations from Mauritius, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Egypt, Lebanon - and of course New Zealand! I enjoyed being back in NZ over the Summer break, and being able to attend Life Teen Summer Camp as a Religious Sister - as you know from my vocation journey, I love witnessing to the fact that Religious Life is still a valid option for our young people today!

All going well, I will be making my Initial Vows in February 2026 - which I will definitely share the details of with the parish!

Please keep me and my community in your prayers as we head into 2025, and know that we are praying for you!

Blessings,
Teresa



A Parish Community Built on Prayer and Devotion

I have heard many people say that our parish of Our Lady of Hope is in many ways 'special' or 'different'. And you, as I have, may have felt this yourself. People say they feel welcomed here, accepted and included. They then may become aware of the foundations this community has been built-up on – the prayer and devotion underpinning all that happens here.

I am not saying this parish is unique in any of this, just that it is a good to acknowledge, appreciate and be part of what makes it this way.

As Pope St John-Paul II used to say, “the family is the domestic church”. Our parish is peopled with many praying families – people praying as individuals, as families, teaching their children to pray and modelling this for them. They make sure their children receive education in their faith at school and/or at home and/or retreat times for young people.

Some of these families and individuals come together to form prayer-groups that meet regularly to pray for each other, the parish, and wider needs, as the Spirit leads them. New families and individuals are always welcome.

For over 30 years there has been weekly all-day Adoration (Wednesdays from 9:30am to 9pm). There is a roster so that at least 2 people are present at all times, plus all are encouraged to call in for a short or long visit whenever they can. (More people are always needed for this roster as individuals age or move away – contact the parish office to join the roster.) Many have suggested this weekly Adoration time is the bedrock of prayer that supports our parish and its needs.

As well as the obligatory Sunday masses, many of our parishioners attend mass on one or more weekdays, either in the parish or in the City at the Cathedral or St Mary of the Angels churches. There is daily 9am mass in Tawa (lay-led liturgy twice a month) and 10am Thursdays in Titahi Bay. There are usually 40-60 people of all ages present each weekday, with many more when there is a special feast day. Even when Fr Rico was unwell for several days both before Christmas and just after New Year, parishioners still attended the Liturgy of the Word with Communion led by a member of the dedicated team of parishioners commissioned by Fr Rico to lead these liturgies. Parishioners realise that we are 'The Body of Christ' when we gather; that we meet the Lord in the proclaimed Word; that we receive Him in Communion. So they continue to come to pray together: to worship, to pray for themselves, the community, and for the world. This prayer and witness is

powerful! It is also important to continue to offer community worship to God, even when mass is not possible.

On most weekdays, mass in Tawa is followed by the Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet - another powerful prayer commitment from parishioners.

We have a strong Children's Liturgy team that each week teaches our children the meaning of gathering for Eucharist, opens the Word for them, and leads them in prayer.

I believe that all these factors make up the 'spirit' of our parish – something we can all enjoy and benefit from. Also something, I hope, that we can all be a part of maintaining and building.

Where do you see yourself and your family in this prayer community?



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
Sunday	6:00pm	St Teresa's, Plimmerton & Holy Family, Porirua
	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)

Finance Committee Update

by *Brian Lang*



The finance committee has been particularly busy over the past few months, the highlights are as follows:

- ◆ **Planning to replace the ribbon fences** in front of the two churches is proceeding. The icon has been chosen and is currently being constructed. Work will start shortly on the surrounding site at the base of the tower in Tawa and then at Titahi Bay.
- ◆ The **Tawa church kitchen floor** carpet has been replaced with vinyl covering, designed to be long-lasting and much easier to keep clean.
- ◆ **A second screen has been installed in the side chapel in Tawa** to enable the overflow of parishioners in that area to fully participate in the Mass. This screen duplicates the main screen in the Church and can also be used independently for functions, training and educational needs.
- ◆ After a review of the process for volunteers counting the cash collections after Mass on a Sunday, we have disbanded this roster, as most parishioners now use automatic bank transfers, making this count unnecessary.
- ◆ The Committee has decided to outsource the cleaning of the two churches and the Presbytery. Over the last few years the volunteer list for this task has become difficult to fill. We felt that outsourcing the cleaning will be more reliable and efficient.
- ◆ In Tawa, various maintenance tasks have been completed, including providing a more suitable display board for the Safeguarding brochures, a new security safe and fireproof cabinet in the Presbytery, securing the front doors and fixing a leak in the Presbytery.
- ◆ In Titahi Bay, maintenance tasks involving the wiring and heating systems have been completed.
- ◆ The Committee has decided to contract out professional accounting advisory services for the current financial year. This includes bookkeeping, monthly management reporting, budgeting, cash-flow forecasting, end-of-year reconciliations and disclosure requirements for the Charities Commission. Having up-to-date and accurate financial figures is essential for compliance purposes and to make spending decisions.



New flooring in the kitchen

Several members of the committee attended an on-line session with the Archdiocese General Manager to discuss the recently revised guidelines for financial committees. These guidelines are available on the archdiocese website.

We are now looking forward to 2025. To provide accountability and a more structured platform, we have drafted a schedule of work spreadsheet, detailing tasks and initiatives planned for the next few months. We will post this document to the Parish website shortly. Primarily, it will be used to provide the agenda for the Committee's monthly meetings and will only be changed at these meetings by agreement.



New additional screen installed in the side chapel

Over 60's Lunch - February High Tea

by Denise Dorman

The ladies from Titahi Bay look forward to the monthly lunch so much because it gives us a chance to meet parishioners from Tawa. At the February High Tea, everything was 'special', from the table settings, the tea-sets, to the food and its presentation.

What a wonderful group of volunteers who prepare the food, set up the tables and then serve the food, making all those present feel very special. A big 'thankyou' to everyone involved!

Everyone over 60 is invited!

Please register before attending.



PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2025

TIME TO ENROL YOUR CHILD 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 March.

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.

Please enrol your child/children as soon as possible.

You can also email Marie Andrewartha (m.g.andrewartha@gmail.com) to enrol.

Please include:

- a) your child's name and age
- b) your name
- c) your contact phone number.

Children must be eight 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 with an Introduction to the Sacramental Programme on **Sunday, 16 March 1pm-4.30pm** at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 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 23 March**, 8.30am, Our Lady of Fatima Church

FIRST RECONCILIATION - **Sunday 6 April**, 3pm, Our Lady of Fatima Church

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - **Sunday 8 June**, 2pm, Our Lady of Fatima Church

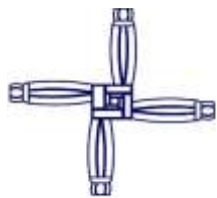
FIRST COMMUNION - **Sunday 3 August, 2pm**, Our Lady of Fatima Church

Please contact Marie Andrewartha if you have any questions

It's not too late! Contact Marie even if you have missed the first session.



St Francis Xavier School - by Joan Woods (Principal)



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

Welcome to term 1 2025

At the start of the year we were thrilled to welcome 13 new students to our school. Ten of these children are new entrants and the other three have come from other schools.

We also warmly welcomed **Ms Francie Martin** who is teaching a Years 5 and 6 class. Ms Martin is a former student of our school we are delighted to have her back here as a member of our teaching team.



Religious Education

While continuing to teach our overarching values of strength and gentleness, our focus for Term 1 was **Ā Tātou Whakapapa - Our Story**. Learning goals for different age groups include: developing an understanding that I am unique, God made me and loves me, and recognising people are gifts from God to each other and to the world. Learning what it is to be part of my own family which is special and loved by God as well as part of God's whānau, and that through Baptism we can become part of God's church. Developing and understanding of the Church in terms of significant events and people that have shaped our Church and the world. They will explore their own whakapapa (where they come from) as well as their communities, connecting with the past, present and future stories in which we all belong.

Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter will be a major focus for our school this term, beginning with an Ash Wednesday liturgy and ending with another liturgy retelling the story of Easter, on the last day of term.

Andrew Chinn Visit

During this term we had Andrew Chinn, Australian religious songwriter and singer, visit St Francis Xavier to share his songs with the staff and children. The morning was spent with different groups working with Andrew and in the afternoon the tamariki/children took part in a concert performing songs from the morning session.

After school Andrew hosted a teaching session with teachers from different Catholic schools. The focus on the staff session was on:

- using music to enhance the teaching of the Religious Education curriculum

- using music to enhance the daily prayer life of our schools and the classes within them.
- choosing and using music to enhance liturgy in a school setting.



Commissioning Mass

On March 4 our school staff and Board members were invited to attend the Commissioning Mass for schools in the Wellington Archdiocese at The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. During the Mass all who serve within each of our Catholic School and College communities are commissioned and blessed in their ministries.

“The task, the call, the mission, the privilege of any teacher in a Catholic school, primary or secondary, is to enlighten the minds and hearts of their students by helping them to meet, to encounter Jesus Christ.” Cardinal John Dew.

Sports

We are excited that our new **basketball court** is up and running. The children have already been enjoying it and it has been a huge hit. Big thank you to our amazing



Parents and Friends group for all their hard work and dedication in making this happen. From organising fundraising efforts to bringing everyone together. We could not have done it without them!

And of course to everyone in our community who contributed, thank you.

This term our three junior classes are enjoying **swimming lessons** at Tawa School Pool. The children attend lessons each Friday where instructors from the pool take the lessons. We have been very fortunate to have a number of parents who help the children get ready for their lessons.

Our Year 3-6 children have all had the opportunity to take part in **Rippa Rugby** tournaments organised by the Tawa Rugby Club. The children walked down to Lyndhurst Park where they competed in a tournament against children from other Tawa schools. The children enjoyed the opportunity to participate and to show their sportsmanship.

School Picnic

This term, we had our school picnic booked at Willowbank Park. With the very late notice that the park was being renovated we had to move the event back to school. Despite the rain on the day, the children enjoyed a range of fun activities in different classrooms.



Meet the Teacher Evening

Meet the Teacher was held in the second 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 find these meetings a valuable way to connect with families and get to know more about the children.

School Board

Our Board met in February for their first meeting of the school year. During the meeting our current Presiding Member, Peter Mallon, was re-elected until September when Board elections will take place.

School Camp 7-9 May 2025

Every two years St Francis Xavier Year 5 and 6 tamariki/children have the opportunity to attend school camp. This year from 7-9 May this group will be going to El Rancho Camp in Waikanae. We understand that some families may face financial challenges in paying for camp and we welcome any support to help ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend. If you would like to help you can drop off your donation at the school office or contribute online. Your generosity makes a difference.



Name of account: St Francis Xavier School Board of Trustees

Account number: ASB 12-3223-0075257-00

Sacramental Programme

This term a number of our tamariki/children are looking forward to taking part in the parish Sacramental programme. [See page 23 for full details.](#)



Wedding of Dawn & Kevin

by Dawn Laureles



On Friday, 7th February 2025, parishioners Dawn Laureles and Kevin Wolstenholme proved their love and commitment to one another through the rite of marriage. The ceremony was held at Our Lady of Fatima church in the presence of family and friends.

It was a beautiful wedding ceremony which included Filipino wedding traditions, along with string music performed by *The Baker Duo*.

A special thanks to Evelyn Lang, who provided the two large, lovely flower displays at the front of the church.

Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

Baptisms

Name of child	Parents	Date
Kyle Jacob Gavia Cruz	Kristel & Joel Cruz	1 December 2024
Chance Mikael Manglicmot	Clarisse Rivadelo & Melvin Manglicmot	8 December 2024
Mirthia Qilin Villacorta Paglinawan	Mildred & Mirf Paglinawan	4 January 2025
Louise Rachel Dela Cruz Magtalas	Lynneth Dela Cruz & Ruiz Magtalas	4 January 2025
Lauren Riley Dela Cruz Magtalas	Lynneth Dela Cruz & Ruis Magtalas	4 January 2025
Caleb Lawrence Fatiaki	Angela Boswell-Fatiaki & Curtis Fatiaki	2 March 2025

Marriages

Rachel Murphy & Andrew Buckley	25 January 2025
Dawn Laureles & Kevin Wolstenholme	7 February 2025

Deaths

Malcolm (Mal) Fyfe	4 December 2024
Luz Boyland	21 December 2024
Maureen (Pat) Hilliard	26 January 2025
William (Bill) Sommer	3 February 2025

Fr Paul O'Connor AA died at the beginning of March.

Eternal rest grant to him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

There will be a tribute for Fr Paul in the next edition. You may wish to read

again articles he wrote for Stories of Hope.

'From Lyndhurst Road to Ponsonby Road' - [Sept 2014](#)

'From Lyndhurst Road to Wyndham Street' - [Sept 2015](#)

'Always Give You Thanks' - [March 2016](#) (following his month-long hospital stay)

All are on the parish web site under '[Publications](#)'



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, Amie Fouhy, Cynthia Ignatius, Dorothy Jansen, Ray Lindsay, Rupi Mapusua, Rebecca Newell, Simon Rayner and Joel Sison.

Current Finance Committee Members

Fr Rico de la Torre - parish priest, Brian Lang - chair, Jane Dimen, Treasurer, Regan Stallard, Anthony Coorey, Denise Dorman, Gavin Chambers, Pablo Correa-Gonzalez, Ramesh Ganesan, Razel Punongbayan, Tea Teofilo.

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

St Joseph's Dads Group - 1st Monday each month - see weekly newsletter

Young Catholics - Meet 2nd & 4th Sunday each month.

For more information contact: olohparishyouth@gmail.com

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>.

Death and Resurrection

A Catholic funeral or requiem Mass is about praying for our loved one, for forgiveness of life's failings, as well as praying for ourselves who mourn them, in the hope of eternal life.

There is also an element of celebrating the life and achievements of our loved one.

At Ninness, we know all the procedures and rituals associated with the Catholic liturgies and also know our way around the local churches for liturgical, musical and technical arrangements.

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 – 26 March

Wednesday – 30 April

Wednesday - 28 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.





Brenden Jacobsen



Larry Greco

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