

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish



Annual Report 2022

Wednesday, 6 July 2022

Contents of Annual Report

Agenda for Annual General Meeting	1
Opening Prayer	2
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2021	3
Parish Council Annual Report	7
Liturgy Committee Report.....	9
Finance Committee	11
Catholic Women's League.....	13
Circle of Friendship.....	14
Passionist Family Groups.....	15
St Brendan's School	16
St Vincent de Paul Society	20
St Vincent de Paul Society – Heretaunga.....	20
St Vincent de Paul Society – Stokes Valley.....	21
Parish Statistics	22
Closing Prayer	23

Agenda for Annual General Meeting

7th August 2022

Pettit Centre Heretaunga

- † Welcome
- † Opening Prayer
- † Present / Apologies
- † Accepting of Minutes of 2021 AGM
- † Tabling / Acceptance of the Annual Reports
(including Annual Financial Returns)
 - Matters Arising from Annual Report
- † Elections of New Parish Councillors
- † General Business
- † Closing Prayer
- † Afternoon Tea

Opening Prayer

Reader: Lord as we prepare to begin our meeting
We recall your promise to be present
When two or three are gathered in your name.
We know that without you here among us
And within each one of us
We will labour in vain.

All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit

Reader: We rejoice that we are blessed and called together
To work in your name.
We pray that we will respond generously
To this opportunity to serve you
And that we will grow in our Christian calling.

All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit.

Reader: Inspire us with your Spirit of wisdom
Plant seeds of your vision in our hearts and minds
Give us humour and give us humility
In our working with one another
So that we may know the privilege of participating
In the coming of your kingdom

All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit

**All: It is our hope that the business of this meeting
will be our spiritual transformation
and the transformation of others through us
and not simply the accomplishment
of tasks and projects.
We ask this of you as we now begin
In the name of the Father, and of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.**

Our Lady of the Valleys
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2021
at Pettit Centre Heretaunga
1st August 2021
2:00 pm



Present: Conor Healy (Chair), Fr Tony Kearns (PP), Roger Wasson, Darrell Mellow, Nadene Maruku, Nick (SV), Barbara Aukusitino, Margaret Lanigan, Jovena Fernandez , Chris Henley, Veronica Sawers, Terry O'Brien, Heather O'Brien, Gordon Holmes, Linda Holmes, Rita David, Judy Connelly, Helen Dench, Sarah Chard, Doug Fauchelle, Des Boyle, Geraldine Sims, Nick Hicky, Lagi Aukusitino (minutes)

1. Welcome

Conor welcomes everyone present to the 2021 AGM, reminding those present to mark attendance on sheet out in foyer. Also invites them to have a copy of the Annual General Report booklet as well as the Financial Report booklet for reference during the meeting.

2. Opening Prayer

Read by all present

3. Apologies

Trish, Chris, Patrick, Kevin (Roger named these names but couldn't quite hear him), Tino Aukusitino

4. Accepting of Minutes of Last AGM

Minutes of 2020 meeting was included in the 2020 Annual General meeting report and was distributed prior to this meeting – minutes were taken as read.

4.1. Call to approve 2020 AGM Minutes

- Moved by Darrell, Seconded – Judy

5. Tabling / Acceptance of the Annual Reports (including Annual Financial Returns)

The Annual General Meeting 2021 Report booklet had been circulated to parishioners several weeks before the AGM. Circulation of booklets were done either via email, printed copies within foyers of both churches as well as posting on the Parish website under Publications. For legal purposes, the financial reports (green booklets) were only available via printed copies within the foyer of both churches.

The following reports were tabled:

Parish Council Annual Report

Liturgy Committee Report

Finance Committee

Catholic Women's League
Circle of Friendship
Filipino Community
Overflow Youth Group
Passionist Family Group
Samoan Community
 Stokes Valley Samoan Community
St Brendan's School
St Vincent de Paul Society
 St Vincent de Paul Society – Heretaunga
 St Vincent de Paul Society – Stokes Valley
Annual Financial Report 2020-21
Parish Statistics

5.1. Financial Report

Roger goes over an overview of the financial reports (green booklets). Due to the comprehensive nature of the financial reports, Roger asks those to have a look and ask if they had any queries about any of the reports or questions about the numbers that were presented.

- Doug – Why such a big difference in interest numbers from last year?
- Roger - change in interest rates were affected due to COVID. Not much financial committee can do about the change in rates.
- Des – are spending more than we are receiving?
- Father Tony - only in 2019 but we underspent in 2020 – the numbers were affected due to COVID and the assistance of the wage subsidy. Each time, finance committee try to save \$2000 each time to assist in the overall year financials so although it may look like we are overspending – according to estimates, we seem to be on track.

5.2. Call to approve 2021 Financial Report

- Move to accept – Roger, second Margaret

5.3. Matters Arising from Annual Report

- No matters arising were expressed from those present.

6. Elections of New Parish Councillors

- Nominations received – Darrell Mellow and Doug Fauchelle
- Welcome back Darrell as parish councillor
- Welcome Doug to the Council.
- Co-opt option
- Current councillors

Fr Tony Kearns (Parish Priest)

Conor Healy (Chair)

Darrell Mellow (Vice-Chair)

Nadene Maruku

Ahmed Hemady

Tino Aukusitino

St Brendan's Rep (alternates between Veronica Sawers (Principal) Sarah Chard (DRS) and Mark Hillhouse (BoT member))

Lagi Aukusitino (Minutes)

- New councillor – Doug Fauchelle

7. General Business

Speakers in OLOG church (Des)

Des and a few other parishioners have showed concern/complained over the sound system in the OLOG church.

This is currently being looked at – currently waiting for a sound technician to come and look at the sound systems in the church.

Other possibilities including changing the acoustics of the church a possibility to improve the sound systems? Difference of sound systems in St Francis Xavier church and Our Lady of Grace is vastly different.

Father mentions that the setup of the churches also impacts the sound systems – SFX is narrow and long whilst OLOG is wide and short. Also, not much that we can do regarding the acoustics of the church at this moment in time.

Once sound system is fixed – is there a possibility to work with parishioners to test the sound systems?

Father will be in contact once the sound systems are fixed.

Individual special collections (Margaret)

Margaret asks whether the amounts of the Individual special collections (eg: Peter's Pence) could be included in the Financial reports and if they could be advertised more in the bulletins.

Jovena, Parish Secretary, explains that though it is possible to give a report and advertise the special collections – they are not scheduled regularly and occur at random; never a set time/date each time.

Include in the bulletin about the special collection of that week but question of whether we are wanting to ask more of our parishioners, on top of their automatic payments, is a concern.

Margaret and Chris ask whether that could be included in the bulletin.

Weekday mass attendance (Margaret)

Numbers of weekday mass have gone down/fluctuated over the years

Actions

Father Tony to talk to Jovena about how to go about advertising the Individual special collections and including it in the bulletin. To also discuss in the Finance committee about the percentage of donations going to special collections.

8. Closing Prayer

Read by all present.

Finish: 2:26 pm

Parish Council Annual Report



Current Parish Council members are Nadene Maraku (Chairperson), Conor Healy (Deputy Chairperson), Darrell Mellow, Doug Fauchelle, Fr Tony Kearns (PP), Lagi Aukusitino (Minutes), Tino Aukusitino, Tiana Sio, Ahmed Hemady, St Brendan's School Representative.

Kia ora koutou, greetings to everyone.

This year has been an opportunity to reflect on all the people in our Parish and all the volunteers that help make things happen. Yet again we have continued to push through the COVID-19 pandemic, and respond accordingly. Diligently, many of our volunteers continued to work through these times - often, this included adjusting the way they worked or exploring other ways of continuing connection within the Parish groups. This shows the true strength of the Holy Spirit in action, dedication and resilience. If you would like to become more involved in our Parish, please get in touch - there are lots of opportunities to take part, and you will be welcomed with open arms!

Our response to COVID-19 meant that as a Council, we needed to make sure we kept people safe. We did this by listening to Ministry of Health guidelines as well as advice from Cardinal John. Different 'Traffic Light' settings across the country meant different things in the way we interacted with each other. Sometimes, this meant not singing, closing church pews to spread people out, not lining up for the Eucharist, not passing the collection baskets around, and sometimes sadly, delivering Mass online. We have learnt to adjust to change, and things will continue changing in the future. We just need to make sure we are prepared and ready to respond in order to keep our people safe and our Parish connected.

We have noticed a significant drop off in numbers attending Mass. We know there are many reasons for this but we would love to welcome everyone back. Our lives get busy, there are workplace staff shortages across the country, there are many illnesses going around, and people have other commitments. In my own life, these are all very common concerns - Including weekend kid's sports activities. As a Council, we do hope to offer church spaces and Masses that help people pause for a moment, be able to reflect and spend time with God. Despite the challenges, it's also an opportunity to be connected to others through our shared faith. There are many groups within the Parish to belong to, where you will benefit from meeting new people, and they will also benefit from your presence. Likewise if you know of anyone you think would like to join your group, invite them along - they may be waiting for that invitation.

Over the past few months, our Parish was invited by the Archdiocese of Wellington and Pope Francis, to engage in a Synod discernment process. This was about connecting

with others in the Parish and taking time to pray together and collaborate on the direction of the Church. We were provided with a series of reflective questions to respond to. The responses were collected and submitted to the Archdiocese of Wellington. The Synod Team then conducted a synthesis of common themes and submitted it to the NZ Catholic Bishops' Conference. From there, the submission will make its way to Rome. I was lucky to attend an Archdiocesan Synod Gathering which highlighted themes that had emerged. During the gathering we also participated in further discernment about the themes. It was a really awakening opportunity personally. I realised there were some really important points and concerns people throughout our Diocese had, and that we were certainly beginning to embark on a time of change for the Church. If you would like to read the Synthesis, please find it at the following link: <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/>

Looking ahead, we hope to hold a Parish Council goal setting day. This will include revising our strategic direction, reflecting on our pandemic response, responding to the Synod findings, and collaborating on our dreams for the Parish. If you would like to share some ideas, please let us know. You can either approach someone on the Council, speak with Fr. Tony, or fill in the following Google Form <https://forms.gle/16mDm37pmFnJDanK6>

Finally, thank you to Fr. Tony for his continued guidance and leadership. Thank you to my fellow councillors for their efforts in keeping Our Lady of the Valleys safe, connected and sailing ahead. Thank you also to Jovena and all our wonderful volunteers for all the hard work done behind the scenes.

God Bless

Nadene Maraku

Chairperson,
Parish Council

Liturgy Committee Report



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The Liturgy Committee meets every fourth Thursday of the month in St. Francis Xavier or Our Lady of Grace Meeting Rooms. Along with Father Tony Kearns, our Parish Priest, we plan for the special feast days and celebrations that are an integral part of the calendar year of the Catholic Church in New Zealand.

This past year has been very challenging and uncertain as we experienced the wide effects of COVID - 19 in our community. We were guided by the recommendations of Cardinal John in our response to the pandemic. The Parish Council and the Liturgy Committee discussed and implemented our action plan for Our Lady of the Valleys. As a result, our meetings were suspended between August and September. A booking in system was implemented, which required parishioners to book in to attend Masses with a capped attendance to ensure the safety of attendees. The water fonts in the foyer were removed, the Offertory Procession and money collection were suspended, every 2nd row was left vacant, and Father Tony and the Eucharistic Minister brought Communion to parishioners in our seats.

As we moved up and down restriction levels these guidelines were amended. The offertory Procession and collection of money have now been reinstated. Our choirs have very recently started to play and sing, but we all must continue to wear our masks. Our roster for the Readers and Leaders is also being used. The Living Waters Café and Children's Liturgy are due to start up again, but as I write this there is some uncertainty about this as we have a surge in numbers of people in the community who are affected by this virus.

The main Liturgical Events during the year are Easter, Pentecost and Easter. This year we have been able to celebrate these special celebrations. Those who attended appreciated the reflective atmosphere that was created because our focus was directed to the significant symbolism that are a feature of each of these celebrations. The towels that were placed on the ground on Holy Thursday evening was very poignant as a reminder of Jesus who washed the feet of his Apostles. Also, Christmas when Father Tony processed in carrying Baby Jesus who was carefully placed in the manger alongside Mary and Joseph. These are just two examples, and they take place every year, but this year we intently watched what was being enacted in the sanctuary, as our attention was not diverted by our singing. We even noticed the reverent manner that the towels were collected.

The Sacramental Programme has also gone ahead as planned. Archbishop Paul Martin visited our parish for the first time to Confirm our children on 3rd July. This was a wonderful celebration for the families involved and the parish, as we gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Confirmation and to support these children on their continuing faith journey.

From Friday 22nd July until Monday 25th July, Our Lady of the Valleys Parish hosted the icon Te Ara A Maria – Mary's Way. Various community groups and individuals came

together to celebrate Mary and the special place she holds in our lives. The icon travelled to St. Francis Xavier's Church in Stokes Valley, Our Lady of Grace Church in Heretaunga, St. Patrick's College in Silverstream and St. Brendan's School, before the icon was transported over the hill to the Wairarapa. Community groups were also invited from St. Joseph's Parish in Upper Hutt to pray, reflect and sing to Mary the Mother of Jesus.

After experiencing lock downs and not being able to attend weekly Sunday Masses, parishioners have a renewed appreciation of coming together as community to pray and celebrate the Eucharist.

The Liturgy Committee seeks the assistance from our fellow parishioners to take on the many roles and ministries within the parish. These include Sacristans, Greeters, Leaders, Readers, Writers of Prayers of the Faithful, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Altar Servers, Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, music groups and choirs, etc.

Our Lady of the Valleys Liturgy Committee is a very small group of committed parishioners, who would like to take this opportunity to thank our fellow parishioners for their generous support that we receive from those who share their talents, time and treasures for our Liturgical Celebrations. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us in planning and delivering these important Liturgical Celebrations, or the other parish ministries who also serve our parish.

God Bless,

Liz McCaul,

**Chair
Liturgy Committee**

Finance Committee



The Finance Committee is made up of the following, Roger Wasson (chair), Fr Tony, Terry Obrien, Colin Braddock, Sylvia Jurkwicz (Maternity Leave), Bryan Scahill, Mike Quinn and Jojo Jose.

Two members of the committee resigned during the last 12 months, John Balao and Pat Krippner. These people were thanked for their input into the running of the parish finances.

We continue to manage the finances of the Parish and also the property portfolio which involves the land and buildings that are owned by the Parish. We have recently finalised the review of the lease of the land to the Koranui Marae, and have on going commitments to the repairs and maintenance of the various buildings owned by the Parish.

This year has been somewhat challenging, with the continuation of the COVID-19 restrictions. We are pleased that the parishioners, who have automatic payments to the parish have continued to support us with their payments and would continue to encourage other parishioners who have yet to instigate automatic payments, to do so.

Excess of Income over Expenditure	
This Gain includes a non-cash charge for Depreciation on Fixed Assets of \$7,764 for the year	1,554.49
Net Cash Inflows/(Outflows)	4,442.01
Nett Assets	1,175,155.79
This is total assets owned by the Parish less the amount of liabilities owed by the Parish	
Total Funds gifted by Parishioners	138,589.26
Insurance Costs	25,093.00
Archdiocesan Levies	21,404.00
These provide funding to the Archdiocese of Wellington to cover costs of running the Archdiocese and National Commitments	
Clergy Support	52,688.00
This is the amount the Parish pays to support the Clergy of the Archdiocese both those in active ministry and those who have retired from active ministry	
Significant Items of Upcoming Maintenance include	
Realignment of roofline of Pettit Centre to remove internal gutter and repair flood damaged 12/12/19)	19,000.00
Repair of glass wall of porch outside OLOG meeting room	3,000.00
Replacement of rotten bargeboards OLOG	4,000.00
Replacement of end windows OLOG	20,000.00

Roger Wasson

**Chairman
Finance Committee**

Catholic Women's League



Heretaunga Branch of Catholic Women's League have about twenty four active members and five members whom we keep in contact with as they are unable to come to meetings. We average around 16 to 20 members at our general monthly meeting. Any interested women of the parish are most welcome to join us.

We get together with other branches of the CWL on a regular basis, but due to Covid these meetings sometimes have to either be cancelled or postponed. But we still keep up regular contact via emails and phone calls.

We have had a mixed bag of meetings during this year but some of the highlights have been:

February	Welcome to 2022 with an afternoon tea in the Pettit Centre
March	Veronica Sawers, principal of St Brendan's spoke to us on how Covid was effecting the school, pupils, staff and parents.
April	We celebrated Stations of the Cross followed by afternoon tea
May	No meeting
June	Our birthday meeting. We invited UH and LH branches of CWL and some children from St Brendan's came to entertain us. A most enjoyable afternoon.
July	We had a guest speaker from Harbour City Funeral who gave an interesting talk on how to arrange a funeral.

We still have other functions to organise for the rest of this year.

Our at home appeal this year is 'I am hope' this is a Mike King's charity and is support for young adults. We have had a couple of 'Bonus Lotto' draws as a fundraiser plus the film 'Whina' is also a fundraiser for the month of August.

Even during this time of COVID we are still doing as much as we can, as well as trying to keep ourselves and our members safe during this time of COVID, to keep the CWL alive and functioning.

The new motto for CWL is 'Great to have Faith but without Action nothing is achieved!'

God's blessings on each and everyone

Marilyn Keating

Co-President

Circle of Friendship

As our name suggests, we are a very friendly, informal gathering (no membership requirements, minutes, motions or attendance records!)



Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month from 2-4pm in the Pettit Centre in Heretaunga.

Our gatherings are kept interesting with guest speakers most months and voluntary 'sharing time' other months e.g.: favourite books, recommended movies, holiday musings, childhood memories, recipes, but to name a few).

The subject of each meeting is advertised the week before in the church bulletin, and women of all ages are most welcome to come along any (or every) month.

We begin with a short prayer and /or bible reading relating to the theme. Guest speakers include people from our local community. We are always open to suggestions for future speakers of interest.

Our attendance averages 20+ to 40 and friends of all denominations are welcome to come to any gathering.

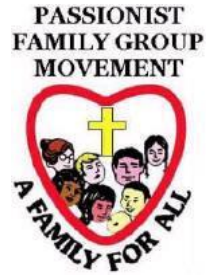
Entry donation of a gold coin is used to cover any expenses and a donation to the speaker's charity or a charity of our choice.

A 'book-swap' table is a popular draw card, and there is a box for collection of any toiletry items for the needy.

The afternoon ends with fellowship over afternoon tea.

Committee Members: Brenda Lister, Denise Allen, Helen Dench, Josephine Eynon, Judy Mc Mahon, Kathy Smith, Pauline Quinn, Rita David, Trish McCauley.

Passionist Family Groups



Family groups help to foster connections and friendships in our parish.

The Passionist priests started Family Groups in the Terry Hills parish near Sydney over 35 years ago, and they began in NZ parishes over 30 years ago.

We have five groups who meet monthly or bi-monthly.

Activities usually involve food, either in our homes or at cafes, and we also enjoy quizzes, car rallies, picnics, walks, train trips, movies and plays.

Father Tony comes to our homes for a House Mass which is always well attended. We appreciate Father Tony joining in with group events.

The new National Director is Paul Traynor who recently met with our group co-ordinators and also came to another meeting with the co-ordinators of the Hutt Valley parishes.

A PFG day for all group members in the Wellington region is held each year.

Our groups and Co-ordinators are:

Jones Group	Lyn and Paul Jones
Nixon Group	Tricia and Keith Nixon
Henley Group	Chris and John Henley
Grace Group	Christine and Nigel Pask
Compassion Group	Kathleen and Barry Emmerson
Parish Co-ordinators	Heather and Terry O'Brien

Everyone is very welcome to join a Family Group.

Terry and Heather O'Brien

Passionist Family Group Co-ordinators



St Brendan's School

Since the 2021 St Brendan's Annual Report to the Parish, our school and community have continued to feel the ripple effects of the global pandemic. We have operated at Alert Levels 4, 3 and 2 and at the Red and Orange settings of the Covid Protection Framework. These have been unprecedented times where we have had to introduce a range of protocols and procedures to support the health and wellbeing of our school community. Some things have been cancelled, some postponed, many have been modified and often we have had several plans prepared for multiple eventualities. We have drawn strength from our faith, the support of our community and our team's professional positivity.

During 2021 we developed a new three year strategic plan:

2022



2024

COLLABORATION



Learners and learning are strengthened and supported through community collaboration.

Develop dynamic reporting where learners and families are engaged and feel valued as essential partners.

Empower reciprocal relationships, in particular, with Our Lady of the Valleys Parish and the cultures represented in our community.

Foster collaboration through transforming learning environments.

Genuine partnership is evidenced by active community involvement.

CURRICULUM



Our curriculum is student driven and teacher framed.

Strengthen our local curriculum.

Engage learners through the design of rich learning opportunities.

Establish a St Brendan's philosophy of Learning Through Play across our school.

Our curriculum is responsive to our context, develops agency and is engaging.

CHARACTER



Our character traits are developed through positive school culture.

Establish our St Brendan's learner progress profile.

Prioritise the hauora of each and the collective.

Embed Social Justice in action schoolwide through the application of our Catholic Social Teaching.

Confident explorers, creative adventurers and resilient navigators contribute within and beyond St Brendan's.

INSPIRING NAVIGATORS

GOD'S IRRESISTIBLE GRACE -

GOSPEL

RESPECT

ASPIRE

COMPASSION

EXPLORE

HE WAKA EKE NOA

WE WORK IN UNITY. WE RISE, FALL AND KEEP GOING TOGETHER

School Production - Searching for Grace

Our St Brendan's 2021 production was entitled, "Searching for Grace". This was written by a group of Navigator students with the support of Cassandra Tse and James Cain:

In a small town on the island of Ake Ake, our Heroes Pedro and Mikayla notice something odd is happening. As they go about their day, they find their island is sinking and things are disappearing. Determined to find a solution, Mikayla and Pedro embark upon a daring adventure, accompanied by their furry friends. Will they complete their mission and save their island, or will the curse demolish the whole island before they can save it?

With St Brendan as a main character and the GRACE values (Gospel, Respect, Aspire, Compassion, Explore) a key part of the mission, the 2021 production was a visible sign of Catholic character and faith in action.

Unfortunately COVID Alert levels changed on the day of the dress rehearsal! A live audience was unable to appreciate the 2021 production, instead the performance was filmed and the recording shared with our community.

The production also launched a new school song, 'The St Brendan's Way':

*We're mighty navigators,
We're sailing to success.
When faced with an adventure,
We always answer 'yes'.*

*We're guided by the gospel,
And trusting in God's truth.
So if we need directions,
Our faith will see us through.*

*From the rivers of Tralee
To the meadows of Clonard,
From Te Awa Kairangi,
To our very own backyard,
We're caring for each other,
And learning every day,
That's the St. Brendan's way.*

*We're kind and we're respectful,
To everyone we meet.
We'll keep on pressing forward
'Til our journey is complete.*

*Discovering and growing,
From seedling into tree,
And soon we'll be the people
That we aspire to be.*

*From the busy Galway streets
To the marshes of Annagh,
We are dancing to the beat,
And we're strumming our guitar,
We're having fun together,
And learning as we play,
That's the St. Brendan's way.*

*The St. Brendan's way,
Is to treat ourselves with care,
To always show compassion
And try to do our share.
The St. Brendan's way,
Is to seek and to explore,
To take on every challenge,
Whatever is in store.*

*From the day that we arrive,
To the last day of Year Eight,
We'll work hard and we will thrive,
We will laugh and celebrate,
We'll face adversity,
But make it out okay,
We're growing up together,
And showing grace each day,
We will support each other,
And that is why we say,
That's the St. Brendan's way.*

In 2021 our overriding Catholic Social Justice principle was 'Human Equality' and in 2022 is 'Human Dignity'. The Catholic Social Teaching principles continue to shape our integrated learning.

Highlights of opportunities to connect with our Parish and faith community include:

- Significant School Masses/Liturgies to start and finish the school year, Ash Wednesday and Assumption of Mary Masses. Class Masses and Liturgies supported by Fr Tony.
- Termly Powhiri to welcome new students/families of our community.
- Saint Brendan's Feast Day.
- Friday Mass schedule with students taking an active part.
- Easter candle design competition.
- Parish volunteers supporting music for school Masses/Liturgies.
- Weekly St Vincent de Paul collections and fundraising for Caritas.
- Connecting with the Home of Compassion Island Bay.
- Sacramental programme.

- Seasons for Growth programme.
- Celebration of Laudato Si' Week, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Suzanne Aubert's Birthday.
- Connecting with Catholic Women's League and the monthly Community Cafe catch ups.
- Strengthening links with our neighbouring, and other, Catholic schools.

Celebrating Matariki helped to brighten winter's darkness. Matariki is a celebration that has, and continues to connect people. It begins with the rising of the Matariki star cluster and signals the new year. This year we celebrated Matariki schoolwide in our House groups, in teams and with our families. We can reference Pope John Paul II's quote in relation to Matariki, "Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence."

Thank you to our supportive Parish community and Fr Tony. Our students, families and staff acknowledge and are grateful for your many contributions.

We welcome you to connect with our St Brendan's team.

God bless,

Veronica Sawers

Principal



St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul Society – Heretaunga

Since my report last year there has been a significant development in respect of this Conference.

Due to the resignation of the President Terry Kavanagh and four of the committee members it has not been possible to carry on as a viable Conference.

Also, before these events happened there had been discussions about merging with the Stokes Valley Conference as it was thought that it was not necessary to have two conferences in the one Parish.

Food items donated by the Parish Community and St Brendan's School are still being collected from Our Lady of Grace Church and distributed to the food bank and any people in need.

Finally, I would like to thank Terry Kavanagh, Brenda Lister, Leola Kelly and Josette Gibbs for their valued support over many years.

Kevin von Keisenberg

Treasurer

St Vincent de Paul Society – Stokes Valley



This has been a difficult year for our conference. Our long time president Gordon Holmes has had to resign due to ill health. Gordon has been the driving force behind our conference since we were established in the late 1960's. Words cannot describe the work, leadership and support given by Gordon to us and the whole community. He will be greatly missed; we wish him and his family all the very best for the future. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you so much Gordon for everything that you have given to others.

Our shop in Stokes Valley has been very busy. Unfortunately, we have had to limit our opening hours to three days a week due to lack of volunteers.

At Christmas we delivered 21 families Christmas hampers and 100 presents for their children.

A special thanks to Veronica Sawers and her staff, and the children of St Brendan's school, who gave of their time and donated food and toys for Christmas. We would like to thank all those parishioners who donated money and gifts for our needy at Christmas and during the year. A special thank you to Margaret Lanigan who continues to sell Christmas card on our behalf.

We use our garage as a depot for the Hutt Valley SVDP Particular Council as a food storage bank and furniture storage for our conference. Due to Covid some of this distribution has been taken over by Kaibosh. Also due to Covid the shipping of our container to Samoa has been delayed, at this stage we are expecting this to be shipped in the next few weeks. Our long-time member Frank Vialini will be going to Samoa to facilitate the arrival and set up of this as a shop on Savili.

ACTIVITIES FROM March 2021 to March 2022

Ministering Holy Communion to the sick 379

Home visits 121

Hospital visits 49

Transports 126

Funerals 21

Food parcels 254

Furniture deliveries 6

We are sad to advise that after 30 years of serving our community in Stokes Valley via our shop, that we have received notice to vacate our shop premises .as there is no other suitable premises available this means that we shall be closing permanently from 11th August. A big thank you to all the people who have supported us over the years both by donating goods, time and frequenting our shop.

God bless you all.

Chris Henley
President

Parish Statistics



	2022	2021	%
Average Mass attendance per Sunday (prev Nov)	272	510	(46.6%)▼
COVID GATHERING RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE			
Sacraments Conferred			
Baptism	14	17	(17%)▼
Confirmation	39	43	(9%)▼
Marriage	1	0	100%▲
Funerals Celebrated	14	21	(33%)▼
Families on Parish Roll	862	851	1.3%▲
Individuals on Parish Roll	2,305	2,279	1.4%▲
Registered Planned Givers	222	214	3.7%▲

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father
as we come to the end of our time together
we thank you for what has been accomplished here today.

May the matters discussed
serve as a catalyst to move us forward
and cause us to advance
and see growth in all areas of our lives.

May we leave here
recognizing you are the God of all wisdom
and you are willing to lead us forward.

This we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus

Our Father

