



SVDP Newsletter

St Vincent de Paul
Canterbury Area Council
Spring Edition 2023



Dear Vincentians, Associates, Friends, and Sponsors

Welcome to this spring edition of our Newsletter that features a number of interesting articles including the highlights of our recent Festival Day, and the celebrations at the feast day Mass of St Vincent de Paul. Other feature articles include an update on our Welfare work, recent retail initiatives, and our Young Vinnies / Young Adults activities.

Our Festival Day was held recently at St Peters Parish in Beckenham and had a number of excellent presentations including several from external speakers from the Pegasus Health and the LOFT. Sadly, we were advised that the LOFT have received advice from MSD of funding cuts and would soon need to curtail their amazing services. Please take a moment to scan the QR code in the article below and support the petition to save this organisation from closure.

To all our regular donors, a sincere 'thank you' for continuing to support the good works of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, especially at a time when things for many are very tight financially. The Society and members do appreciate your generosity! If you are considering making a donation to a charitable organisation, do please consider Vinnies and the amazing work that our volunteers do for us. Further details are available below.

And finally, our National President (Terry Jordan) has recently become unwell. Please keep him in your prayers.

God Bless,
Mike Moore
Area President



The Vincentian 'Works of Mercy' Cross awarded to Peter.

Peter Dravitzki – exceptional service

The Vincentian 'Works of Mercy' Cross awarded to Peter. He recently retired from the West Parish Conference after more than 50 years of service as a Vincentian. He was commissioned in 1961 at the St Albans Conference based in Somme Street.

Peter had moved to Chch to attend university and trained as a teacher. He received a teaching appointment in Kaikoura but later returned to Christchurch where he joined Vinnies at Our Lady of Victories Conference in Sockburn (now the West Parish Conference). During his time at Sockburn, Peter held the role of President on 3 separate occasions. He spent time with the needy visiting Hillmorton Hospital supporting the alcoholics. He also visited the prisons and special care units to support the prisoners and residents. To recognise Peter's outstanding service to Vinnies, he was awarded the Mercy Cross.

Festival Day 2023

A large turnout of Vincentians was welcomed by Board Member & MC for the day, Clodagh Ward. Then, local Conference President Denise Holling, also welcomed the excellent turnout of members from Canterbury and the West Coast. The day was hosted at the St Peters Parish Hall with numerous Conference members generously volunteering their time to make the day the success that it was.

Fr Chris Orr's spiritual reflection focused on the work of the Vincentian and added his thoughts as he recently rode across the back areas of Australia and their peoples – especially the aboriginals, many of whom had no work and were searching for the purpose of life and their lack of inclusion in society.

Area President Mike Moore was next to speak and looked back over the Societies achievements of the past year and then outlined some important issues for the year ahead. **Sr Clare Murphy** followed and provided a very interesting reflection for the members of the Society – noting that Blessed Frederic Ozanam who was himself challenged by the harsh conditions of his time, said – “how can I say I love God whom I cannot see if I ignore the needs of my neighbour whom I can see.”

Fr Ben was the final speaker before the break, and he also reflected on our spirituality which is very much based in Christ and the spirit of service. He continued, our service is to provide a “hand up” to the poor and marginalised not just provide a handout. Our job is to “restore the dignity of the poor.”

Kim Taylor from the Loft (Ki te Tehi) outlined the vast range of services that this organisation is able to provide and in turn assists community wellbeing. The Loft – based at Eastgate – acts as a facilitator to assist and support those with needs such as housing, abusive relationships, advocacy plus alcohol and drug dependency.

Their service has been available since 2016 but is under threat of closure as the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) have discontinued their funding for their ‘crisis intervention service’. The Loft have challenged this decision by MSD and are working hard to find others options that will maintain the lifeline of hope provided by the Loft to individuals and whanau in our community.

The LOFT has **established an urgent appeal and need your support.** Please scan the QR code for further details



Our next speakers were **Lovey Ratima-Rapson and Rachel Fitzgerald from Pegasus Health** who spoke about issues associated with health equity and the ability of people to access health services. Connecting with the right people in health services is crucial and “advocacy by Vincentians” could often assist these people who are frustrated by being unable to get the services needed. They recommended utilising the Health Navigator Service – an online health care service.

Mike Daly (National Board member) spoke of his role on the National Board and that he was keen to pilot a trial recruitment plan here in Canterbury. With the decline in membership over the past 10–20 years, we urgently need to look beyond our traditional catchment areas of the parish churches. In addition to the recruitment of new members, Mike stressed the importance of induction, training and support for our new members – an area that we have not performed so well in recent years.



Clodagh Ward



Fr Chris Orr



Sr Clare Murphy



Kim Taylor



Fr Ben Asare



Rachel Fitzgerald



Mike Daly



Denise Holling and Shelley Knowles



Lovey Ratima-Rapson



The day concluded with the Awards ceremony where the Area President Mike Moore recognised Vincentians with long and meritorious service. These members included:

We sincerely thank you all!

	Name	Conference	Years of Service	Name	Conference
50+ years	Peter Dravitski	West Parish	5 years	Bruce Mayhew	Cathedral
25 years	Tony Fayey	Cathedral	5 years	Troy Noronha	Cathedral
25 years	George Varghese	Papanui	5 years	Caroline Greenwood	B/side Christ the King
25 years	Tim O'Sullivan	Papanui	5 years	Rob Oorschot	Hoon Hay/Halswell
20 years	Pat Maloney	Hoon Hay/Halswell	5 years	Rosie Jordan	New Brighton
20 years	Clark Richards	Beckenham	5 years	Brian Mackenzie	Papanui
10 years	Sr Monika Moale	West Parish	5 years	Wendy Carmody	Rangiora
10 years	Sharyn Lane	Stella Maris	5 years	Anne Nicholls	Stella Maris
10 years	Ann Martin	Rangiora			
10 years	Jackie McDonald	Kaiapoi			
10 years	Sue Sullivan	B/side Christ the King			
10 years	Lew Corbett	Addington			

SPECIAL AWARDS

Clare Doocey	West Parish
Shirley Murphy	West Parish
John Ruane	West Parish
John Reilly	West Parish
Mike Daly	Stella Maris



Sue Sullivan



Pat Malone & Clark Richards



Sharyn Lane



Bruce Mayhew



Robyn Casey,
Clare Doocey



Shelley Knowles, Robyn, Clare,
Mike Daly



George Varghese, Tony
Fahey, & William McManus
for Tim O'Sullivan

Safeguarding Workshop at Festival Day

52 Vincentian sisters and brothers attended the Safeguarding Workshop to kickstart festival day. The society signed the Church National Safeguarding Policy in November 2022 and must meet the safeguarding guidelines and requirements under this policy.

St Vincent de Paul are committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of all children and adults at risk who come into contact with the Society. This includes our valuable conference members, volunteers and staff. Serving some of the most vulnerable people in communities through relationships of trust and respect is at the heart of the Societies Mission.



St Vincent de Paul has zero tolerance for abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

To discuss safeguarding in your conference and to ensure your conference meets the safeguarding requirements under the policy please contact Clodagh Ward, the Safeguarding Advisor for St Vincent de Paul in Christchurch. Contact details for Clodagh are : Clodagh@svdpchch.co.nz and 0211000974.

Feast of St Vincent de Paul - 27 September

Despite the inclement weather, a good turnout of Vincentians celebrated the Feast of St Vincent de Paul at St Patrick's church in Kaiapoi.

Our celebrant was Fr Chris Orr who spoke briefly about St Vincent's life of dedication to the poor, noting that he not only had empathy with the poor and needy but also that he was a 'man of action' – he made things happen!

Following Mass, a supper was held allowing all those who attended the celebration to enjoy some fellowship.

Area President, Mike Moore thanked Fr Chris for celebrating Mass and Maryanne Brown, Kaiapoi President, and all her members that assisted with the organisation of the event along with some members from the Rangiora Conference. Overall, a most enjoyable evening.



Let us remember in our prayers

St Vincent de Paul

Welfare is what he did.

Helping with the welfare of the poor and the marginalised here in and around Christchurch is what we at SVdP do! The challenge for us in this fast-paced society that we live in today is to regularly relate back to the work of Saint Vincent and what he faced on his welfare for others journey, that of - helping and working with the poor and the marginalised.

On 27th September, we remember Saint Vincent de Paul the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor and marginalized. Today in 2023 we continue that work of helping the poor and marginalized. His feast day reminds us that Saint Vincent worked with the poor and the marginalised and that is a reminder to us to not only take food, clothing, and other physical items of help to those in need but to also work with them..... to help them.



St. Vincent de Paul was born in Pouy, France on 24 April, 1581, and was ordained a priest on 23 September, 1600. Vincent devoted himself entirely to the alleviation of suffering of the poor. To that cause, he established the Confraternities of Charity, later known as the Ladies of Charity, in 1617. In 1625, he founded the Congregation of the Mission, his community of priests and brothers. With Louise de Marillac, he cofounded the daughters of Charity in 1633 Vincent died in Paris on 27 September, 1660, and was canonized in 1737. Pope Leo XIII declared him patron saint of all works of charity.

Born to a poor family in the southwest of France, he showed his intellectual gifts from a young age, studying theology from around age 15. He received ordination as a priest in the year 1600 and worked as a tutor to students in Toulouse.

During a sea voyage in 1605, Vincent was seized by Turkish pirates and sold into slavery. His ordeal of captivity lasted until 1607, during which time the priest converted his owner to the Christian faith and escaped with him from Tunisia. Afterward, he spent time studying in Rome, and - in a striking reversal of fortune - served as an educator and spiritual guide to members of an upper-class French family.

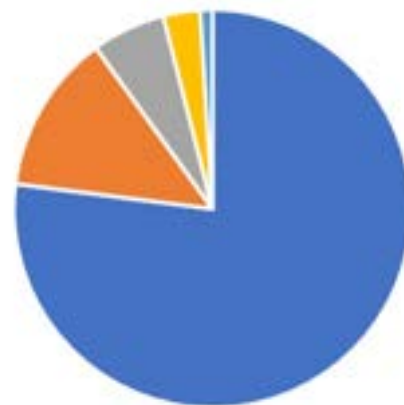
Welfare Services in 2023

A big thank you to all who support our work with generous donations and who support our retail shops - the profits from which can be used for welfare purposes. Thank you also to our Conference volunteers who deliver our welfare services.

Welfare Assistance.

	No	% increase
Jan - Sept 2021:	5,166	...
Jan - Sept 2022:	5,040	-2.4%
Jan - Sept 2023:	6,120	21.4%

Assistance Provided



■ Food ■ Furniture & bedding ■ Kitchenware ■ Clothing ■ Other

Skill Values Development Programme

A pilot study

“Help Us, Help Others”

What does this mean exactly, who is it meant for, and how do we nurture and grow our capacity to Help Others via our Vinnies stores?

Education as a basic need, staff require full training to perform to the best of their ability, and workplace systems require reiteration to keep pace with changing demands in our communities. To support businesses supporting employees' educational needs, the government has made provision for funding to improve literacy and numeracy in the workplace.

The benefits of our bespoke Skill Values Development Programme (SVDP), are evidenced by improvements in welfare client and customer service, employee job satisfaction, improvements in communication, workplace culture, team cohesion, reduction of errors and missed tasks, and increased productivity. Our Christchurch based programme is running in three cohorts, commencing June 2023 and completing April 2024, with a view to roll the programme out Nationwide in 2024/5. Funding, to the value of \$72,000, was granted by the Tertiary Education Commission via Skills Highway application process.

The application process was supported and guided by Nettles Lamont from Skills Highway. With the programme facilitated by Gayle Taylor, from Education Unlimited, and supported by Conquest Training. Arohanui to all others who have assisted us in seeing this educational opportunity into fruition, and

Helping Us, Help Ours, Help Others.



CONGRATULATIONS!

On Monday the 18th of September Myola and her family (Husband Ashvin and Son Johan) became New Zealand Citizens in a ceremony in Christchurch. For Myola (our welfare administrator) it was a double celebration as it was also her birthday.

Congratulations Myola, Ashvin and Johan.

Spring Retail Initiative

Vinnies Papanui welcomed spring with a special day and a shop full of new stock. We had a wonderful crowd turn out to shop and the day raised a total of \$6,860 for the first day of Spring.

Shoppers were able to purchase some amazing designer clothes, some specialty vintage pieces and stunning homewares and linens. A big thank you to our fantastic donors – and also, a big thank you to our volunteers at the Papanui shop.



Young Vinnies

Vinnies Youth and Adults

"It was lovely as an adult to see the flowering of the future of Catholicism and SVDP at the [Commissioning] Mass. Filled me with hope for the future."



2023 Commissioning Mass

The youth and young people of the Society of St Vincent de Paul have been busy living out their faith over the last few months through giving back their time and talents to our local communities.

A highlight of our year is the Commissioning Mass where we come together to celebrate the mahi that we have accomplished and to welcome new members to the Society. This year, St Mary's Pro Cathedral was packed with eighteen kura attending, over 150 students, Conference members, and hundreds of supporters. Seeing this sense of unity was truly a highlight of the year!

Volunteering

Recently, we have seen a boost in our youth volunteering with weekly service from St Teresa's School, and regular volunteering from St Bede's College, Catholic Cathedral College, tertiary students, and other kura as needed.

Over the next month, we have planned faith in action days with St Anne's School, and have four weeks of volunteering with Hagley College students. Students from St Thomas of Canterbury College and Villa Maria College also spent an evening cooking and serving food for Kai for the Community. It is wonderful to see the eagerness of our young people to contribute their time in helping us to help others.



During term 3 we focused on the environment and caring for our Common Home (Laudato Si').

Our most recent appeal has been a can drive, as requested by our Conferences. This has been a great success given the current economic crises, with several schools donating goods to be distributed from Stanmore Road/ in their local areas. More than 1,500 cans have been donated, with a total estimated cost of over \$2,500.



Social media

Facebook: Vinnies Youth Christchurch

Instagram: @vinniesyouthchristchurch



“Vinnies meets Vogue” Christmas edition”

Our next event at Papanui is “Vinnies meets Vogue Christmas edition”. This will be held on the 1st December to raise money to help those families in need at Christmas. It will be a ticketed event with guest speakers, prizes and wonderful shopping. If you have any special items you are able to donate including designer clothing, exclusive vintage or furniture pieces, bric a brac or even items to raffle including sponsorship, please phone Polly 021339289 or email- polly@svdpchch.co.nz

Vinnies and Pink Ribbon

Vinnies are excited to be collaborating with the Breast Cancer Foundation with a POP UP boutique of beautiful designer clothing at the Pink Ribbon Breakfast at Larcomb Vineyard on October 29th 2023.

To celebrate 5 years in remission Vinnies are supporting Clodagh Ward in hosting this event, all proceeds go to Vinnies and the Breast Cancer Foundation. Delicious food, great raffles and silent auctions all in a glorious setting.

Please support this event by purchasing tickets. Click on the picture on the right to go to the ticket site.



PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST
LARCOMB VINEYARD
SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER 2023
9:30 AM

PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST | Humanitix
PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST, Hosted at Larcomb Vineyard, 307 Larcombs Road, Rolleston 7675, New Zealand, Sun 29th Oct 2023, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm...

Donations welcome - changing lives



Vinnies is known for its “spirit of service” to those most in need in our community. With your generous donation, Vinnies can continue to provide a “hand up” as well as a “hand out” to the many families that seek our help.

Together, we can change the lives of those most in need.

You can make a donation to our bank account:
Society of St Vincent De Paul Christchurch

Westpac 03 0854 0706 103-000

Please use your name and email address as a reference and we will send you a receipt.

www.svdpchch.co.nz

From the General Manager – Robyn Casey

The last quarter has been a busy one with Welfare – in particular the demand for beds & bedding, furniture & kitchenware. Sadly need has far outweighed donations so it has been difficult to meet these requests.

The past 6-months has seen a 20% spike in welfare requirements – in particular, food. This has resulted in significant purchases of food and in some cases bedding.

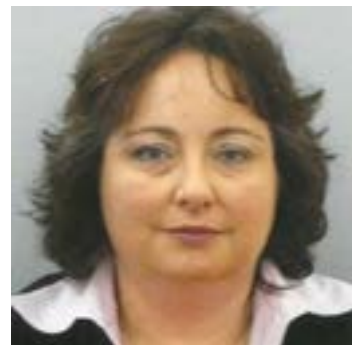
As a charitable organisation we value & appreciate the support of all our donors, our volunteers and staff. Without this generosity, we could not achieve our welfare goals to support the many who are in need.

The next 6-months look equally as challenging as the past 6-months. We would certainly appreciate all support – be it food or financial donations or alternatively donations of furniture and bedding. Anything would be hugely appreciated.

And finally, as we gear up for the Christmas season, high on our list is the Christmas Grotto Appeal. This event will be held in early December and is an opportunity for parents to obtain Christmas gifts for their children. The appeal for gifts or financial donations will gratefully be received and importantly ensure over 1,800 children will receive a gift and be able to enjoy a happy Christmas.

Thank you & God Bless

Robyn Casey
General Manager
SVDP, Chch



Obituary

BERNARD HALL: 06/01/1941 – 29/03/2023

Bernard HALL, aged 87 Years, recently passed away on 8th August 2023. He was surrounded by his wife and family. Bernard was a long standing faithful Vincentian who served for more than 20 years as a member of the St Annes Conference (Stella Maris). He showed great leadership serving as the Conference President, then as Area Council President, and later a National Board member.

As a Vincentian, Bernard was always willing to go the extra mile with his work in whatever role he undertook. He retired some 10 years ago due to declining health. Bernard's funeral Mass was held at St Anne's Catholic Church. His significant contribution to the work of St Vincent de Paul in Canterbury will always be remembered.



For all our fellow Vincentians, who have been laid to rest

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace, *Amen*

Lord – in grateful memory of all our departed Vincentian brothers and sisters who have gone before us in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul, we pray that their dedication may inspire us to build a strong future for the Society.