



EASTER NEWSLETTER

St Vincent de Paul Canterbury Area Council
April 2023

Dear Vincentians, Associates, Friends, and Sponsors

This is the first of four newsletters that Vinnies will produce in 2023 that will highlight our work, our people and some of our important achievements. This is a change from past years when we only produced two newsletters that were, on reflection, a little too long for our readers.

I am delighted to be able to write about the highlight of this first quarter – the official opening of our major housing initiative on Pavitt Street in Richmond, Christchurch. Bishop Michael Gielen officially opened the Ozanam Apartments in early March. The apartments have been named in recognition of our founder – Blessed Frederic Ozanam. The young mums and their family will be able to live in safe and secure facilities with great support provided to them by staff from St John of God (Hauora Trust).

Our Welfare services are also being stretched this year given the tough economic times that we are all facing. These services have seen a jump in demand of nearly 15% in the first quarter of 2023 – and so, it is a big thank you to all the volunteers in our Conferences who do this most important work. May God bless you for your endeavours.

Trading at our Vinnies stores is always a challenge in difficult times, but we are aided by our very creative shop managers. I am delighted to advise that our Retail Manager is hosting an afternoon of boutique fashions at our Papanui store – this is being held on Sunday 7 May – do look for the item inside this edition on the details and how to acquire your ticket.

Our Conferences are currently in the process of considering Vinnies 2022-24 Strategic Plan and how some of these initiatives that have been listed can be undertaken. This important exercise will help our Society in Canterbury to broaden its range of services to those in need, unwell or are lonely plus also, to care more for our own members.

Finally, a big thank you to all our “Shop Volunteers” who do some amazing work and make it possible for our shops to operate profitably and allow the Society to fund our local Welfare work!

With Easter blessings to you all
Mike Moore
Canterbury Area President





Recognition of service Trish O'Keefe

At our Board Meeting in March '23, Trish was thanked and farewelled as she stepped down from the role of Secretary to the Area Council and Area Board. Trish who has contributed 33 years of service to Vinnies will continue to be involved in our work – specifically with her local Conference work, plus the production of our quarterly Vinnies Newsletters for which she does an amazing job.

As mentioned, it was 33 years ago that Trish joined Vinnies and has contributed to the Society in so many ways! As a young mum she had received help and so was determined to repay this service. Trish has provided secretarial services to the Board, the Area Council & the various Conferences that she has been a part of. Prior to the development of our Welfare system (Zoho), Trish was an integral part of the Welfare line that Vinnies operated – clearing the voice messages and texts and sending the client details out to the various Conferences. One of her other talents is the creation of Vinnies Christmas Angels that parishioners take home and bring back for Vinnies Christmas activities including gifts / items for the kiddies Xmas Grotto. Trish received due recognition for her services in 2022 at our annual Festival Day in Sumner where she received the Cross that was blessed in Rome plus a Certificate of Service signed by our National President.

Thank you, Trish, for your amazing service to Vinnies!

*thank
you*

Acknowledging Corey, Mike and Tony

In our last edition of 2022, we acknowledged the outstanding service of Penny. Today, we would like to acknowledge the service of our former logistics coordinator Corey and his drivers – Mike and Tony. Sadly, all have now moved on to other work / activities and it is important that their hard work and significant contribution to Vinnies over many years is acknowledged.

There was a great farewell event at Stanmore Rd in September '22 where many volunteers and staff attended so they could both recognise the amazing work and values of the logistics team and say their farewells! Their work ethic ensured Vinnies was able to operate most effectively and kept our shops well stocked and our customers happy!

Thank you, Corey, thank you, Mike and thank you, Tony!

“He is not here.
He has Risen,
just as He said.”

MATTHEW 28:6





The Completed Apartments



Bishop Michael officially opening the Apartments



Sarah Hillier, Mike Daly and Bishop Michael

Official Opening of Ozanam Apartments

Bishop Michael Gielen officially opened the Ozanam Apartments on Pavitt Street, Richmond on 3rd March. This event culminated more than 7 years of dedicated work by a number of Vincentians, members of St John of God (Hauora Trust) and the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. The event attracted some 80 Vincentians, donors and supporters and was held at the Richmond Club in Christchurch. After brief speeches by Trust Chair (Mike Daly), Sarah Hillier (CEO, St John of God Hauora Trust) and Bishop Michael, we proceeded along to the Apartments where they were formally opened by Bishop Michael. All the visitors were able to inspect one of our 2- and 3-bedroom units before returning to the club for celebrations.

The tenants of these Transitional Housing units will be young mothers and their families and will be supported with wrap around social services by St John of God (Hauora Trust).

The good news is that these fully furnished apartments are now debt free thanks to the generosity of grant funders, including the Hoatu Fund (administered by Bishop of Christchurch), the Hugo Trust, Kiwi Gaming Foundation, Maurice Carter Charitable Trust, Christchurch City Council (Endowment Fund) and the Eliza White Foundation. Our sincere thanks also go to all the other organisations that have generously contributed to this project. Special mention to the Elms and Commodore Hotels, plus the Warehouse for the various goods provided that helped furnish these units.

*Thank you to all
who contributed
to this amazing project!*

VINNIES MEETS VOGUE

On Sunday 7th May 2023, Vinnies will be hosting an exclusive event at its Papanui Shop in Langdons Rd – across the road from the Northlands Mall.

“Vinnies Meets Vogue” is an event where the very best of our donated fashions will be on sale for the afternoon.

The event will also promote a number of raffles and silent auctions from items generously donated by a number of our sponsors.

All proceeds from the event will go exclusively to our foodbank so we may continue to help the many Christchurch families that are in need.

Currently, Vinnies are supplying 80+ food parcels each day, delivered to the homes of all who are in need. The increasing costs of offering this essential free outreach to any member in the community is an ongoing challenge for us.

This exclusive Charity Event is a paid ticket only event. If you would like to attend, please follow the link to obtain tickets:

[BUY TICKETS](#)



Working with The Corrections Department

We have recently developed a relationship with the Department of Corrections. Last year we received a small supply of vegetables; this year we have been fortunate to get a regular consistent supply of vegetables from the prison gardens. These gardens are designed to feed the residents, and all surplus goes to a couple of Charities. These vegetables are harvested on the morning we collect them, they are beautiful and fresh, and we have been fortunate to obtain on a Wednesday Morning between 16–26 crates. Lots of potatoes, kale, and marrows which is then distributed to our Conferences. Given the cost of vegetables, we are truly blessed!

As well as vegetables, we have been given bed frames, clothing, books, and boots for our welfare mission. Plus, we are now trialling a new initiative with a sewing facility to recycle our ‘seconds’ – reducing land fill waste, and creating rags for sale, and the recycling of buttons and zips for sale also.

To all those involved in these initiatives from Dept of Corrections – thank you – this is hugely appreciated.

Young Vinnies / Young Adults

Our Young Vinnies in the Ōtautahi area are thriving! During the Lent period our students have been involved with learning about the good works of the Society, service, community outreach, and volunteering. Most recently, our Vinnies at St Bernadette's School hosted an afternoon tea and games day for their community- It was a wonderful event with families, parishioners, and teachers attending. With the end of term one fast approaching, we are also collecting items from our schools as part of our Lenten Appeal which helps to stock our stores and subsequently raise funds for those we assist, thank you to everyone who has participated! Next term keep an eye out for our Winter Woollies collection and Commissioning Mass.

Recently, Olivia attended Vinnies AGM in Dunedin. The photo on the right below shows Olivia with Amanda (Kapiti Mama) and Jo (Dunedin).



Welcome to new West Parish Conference

Monday, 27 March 2023 saw the formal establishment of this new Conference in the West Parish of Christchurch. This is a result of the amalgamation of the Riccarton, Sockburn and Hornby Conferences which will now work together to provide service to those in need, sick or elderly in the western part of our city. The following Vincentians were appointed –

- President: Reuben Casey
- Secretary: Jackie Ott
- Treasurer: John Ruane

This leadership team will now appoint a Committee that will help oversee the important work of the conference. In the meantime, our Conference members will continue their work in their usual service areas. May I acknowledge Brother Ben who announced his retirement after many long years of helping those in need – thank you, Vinnies are most grateful for your generous service!

And finally, a big thank you goes to John Reilly who has helped facilitate this organisational change over the past 6-months.

Vinnies Welfare Services during 2022 and 2023 to date

Demand for our welfare services during 2022 was at a similar level to previous years with over 7,220 requests, approximating over 22,000 adults and children who have received our support. Our first quarter of 2023 has seen a nearly 15% spike in demand – no doubt driven by inflation – resulting in increased prices for food, power, rent and mortgages.

Vinnies extends a big thank you to all our donors in Canterbury for your continuing support as without such we could not continue to provide our welfare services to the ever-increasing number of people.

Some interesting statistics from our database on 2022 services to people in Canterbury. These needs for assistance ranged from food parcels (76%), to bedding incl. sheets & blankets (8%), furniture (5%), Kitchen/whiteware (4%), power/firewood (3%).

In addition, our support extended to providing clothing, school uniforms & stationery, Christmas presents (from the Grotto) in December, additional Christmas food parcels plus free budgetary advice. These support services to our local community have been valued at over \$800,000.

A big thank you to our many donors for your continuing support – be it donated items or financial support. Without your amazing support, we could not have achieved the above results.



Let us go forward with the joy of Jesus' Resurrection, knowing He is always by our side!

Pope Francis

Obituaries

Les Maloney (QSM)

Vincentian - Hoon Hay / Halswell Conference

Les passed away on 13 January 2023. He was a Vincentian for some 29 years. He formed a Conference in Granity on West Coast in the early days along with another 5 members. These were the days that the giving of food wasn't required. Instead, they did 'good works' as an organisation with one of the major achievements being to turn a hall into a Senior Citizens Community Centre. Les achieved this by enlisting the help of many including the Mine's Department.

Les in those days was a Constable for New Zealand Police and was on every committee that was available, often as President or a Treasurer. Les was awarded the QSM (Queens Service Medal) in recognition of all his hard work.

When he retired from paid work, he joined the Hoon Hay / Halswell Conference and was a member for 20 years delivering food and holding the Treasurer position until ill health forced him to retire from active duty. Les was always a "Vinnie" at heart.

Les is survived by his wife Pat – a Vincentian, his 4 children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your amazing work Les – RIP.

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.

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 the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen



**Happy Easter
To You All.**

May this joyful season of **Easter**
fill your heart with renewed hope,
love, and peace.



Newsletter compiled by Mike Moore, Olivia Shimasaki, Robyn Casey and Trish O'Keefe

**"...TO SERVE THE POOR
IS TO GO TO GOD..."**

St. Vincent de Paul

