



SVDP Newsletter

St Vincent de Paul Canterbury Area Council – August 2022

Message from Mike Daly Christchurch Area President



Dear Vincentians, Associates & Friends

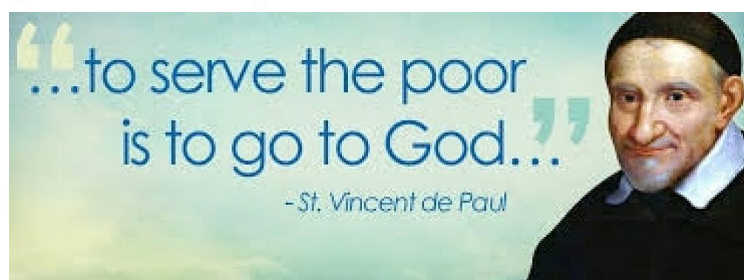
As my time concludes after six years as the Christchurch Area President, I feel incredibly grateful! Grateful for the opportunity to have a leadership role in this wonderful organisation whose history of helping and aiding those less fortunate than ourselves extends more than 150 years. Grateful to our dedicated and hardworking Board who have shared the responsibilities and made it possible for me to do this job. Grateful for the hard work of our Vinnies staff and volunteers in growing our successful retail operation. Lastly, grateful to the Conferences in the Christchurch area for their support of my leadership, and their deep commitment that serves the welfare coalface in doing the essential work of our mission.

Mike Moore has been our Area Treasurer and the Vice Chair for most of my term, and I happily hand over the reins to his very capable hands. May God continue to bless our work and all who are served by the Vincentian family.

..... Mike Daly



LEFT: Mike with our newly commissioned Conference Members at the Pro Cathedral on Wed 6 July. Congratulations to you all.



Mike Daly - a tribute to service

Area Council President, Mike Daly, is about to step down from his Presidential role in accordance with Vincentian policy that only permits a maximum 6-year term. During these past years, Mike has shown himself to be an excellent leader of the Society in Canterbury during a time when there were many 'ups and downs' as a result of Covid lockdowns but despite that has managed to keep the Society operating in a very balanced manner. Mike has always been a kind and caring leader and a colleague to those he has worked with in SSVDP. He always made time to acknowledge those who supported his work.

Maryanne Brown (Conference President in Kaiapoi) moved a vote of thanks to Mike at a recent Area Council meeting for his years of service as Area President. 'He was totally and always committed - very just, fair, and considerate in his decisions and always had the best interests of the Conferences and their futures at heart for the betterment of the Society long term. He's done a sterling job and will be sorely missed in this role.'

Mike's dedication to the Society has been impressive and has resulted in many positive results! How he has managed family work and Vinnies is mind boggling! Congratulations on an outstanding Presidency which of course, has been acknowledged by the National President appointing Mike to the National Board with his focus being on membership. This appointment recognises contribution and extensive understanding of the work of Vinnies. Over the years, Mike has developed close working relationships with other agencies with great expertise and respect. A great example is St John of God (Haurora Trust) where combined efforts have resulted in our Pavitt Street transitional housing project becoming a feasible project. The facilities should be completed by end of year and the tenants will be supported with wrap-around services provided by the St John of God team based at Waipuna.

With Mike & Marianne away most of September (*travelling to Europe*), we will recognise Mike's very significant contribution to Vinnies at a function on his return in October '22.

Some of Mike's achievements during his time as President include-

- 2016** Mike appointed President, Canterbury Area Council
- 2017** Implements new ZOHO Welfare system as part of our Vinnies tool kit.
Meets with International President General Renato Lima de Oliveria at our Festival Day
Organising President of the Societies 150-year celebrations held in Christchurch in October 2017
- 2018** Established a new retail shop in Hornby
- 2019** March, set up a fund for victims of Mosque attack
Our rebuilt Papanui shop officially opened with a state of the art" op-shop
- 2020** Covid lockdown – implements new procedures to facilitate the ongoing support of our clients
- 2021** New General Manager appointed
Mike is invited to join National Board
Stage 1 Pavitt Street project starts
- 2022** Pavitt St project Stage 2 commences - due for completion and opening later this year
New Conference Coordinator position established



BELOW: Meeting International President General Renato Lima de Oliveria



ABOVE: With Cardinal John Dew and Penny at AGM



BELOW: Blessing of Papanui Shop by Fr Chris Orr



ABOVE: The rebuilt Papanui shop officially re-opened
BELOW: Meeting with members of Hugo Trust and St John of God Hauora Trust



LEFT: Inspecting the inside of Pavitt St housing with members of St John of God Hauora Trust

BELOW: Mike at a Commissioning Mass



ABOVE: St Thomas of Canterbury College Fair

Pavitt Street Special Housing Project

Ozanam Canterbury Charitable Trust

Pavitt Street Transitional Social Housing Units

Recent visitors to our shop in Stanmore Road may have noticed the housing construction that is currently taking place on the back of our shop. These are our seven transitional social housing units that are being constructed by the Ozanam Trust (established to oversee the development & management of these properties). Costing \$2.25million to build and furnish, the Society has undertaken a very successful fundraising campaign that despite a slow start, has recently borne fruit resulting in our targets now being close to our fundraising goal.

The Society has entered into an agreement with St John of God, Haurora Trust (SJOGHT) to provide secure, dry and warm housing to young mothers and their children – mostly homeless or in unsatisfactory accommodation situations. SJOGHT will provide wrap-around services (HOPE programme) to these families that will result in them acquiring the necessary life skills and confidence to move out to the private rental market when ready.



Construction is over 60% completed with an official opening of these units likely to take place later in the year. Delays due to the availability of gib has resulted in our builder Ashley de Wys having to use all his skills to minimise any delay in the delivery of this project.



**“Yours must be a work of love,
of kindness, you must give your
time, your talents,
yourselves.”**

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Festival Day – 10 September 2022

Our Festival Day meeting is back in 2022! It is being hosted by *Stella Maris Conference at Star of the Sea Parish Centre* in Sumner. Anne Dixon (Conference President) and Shelly Knowles Conference Coordinator have developed a very interesting programme that is not to be missed by Vincentians.

The event starts at Midday with a luncheon before Father Chris Orr starts proceedings with a spiritual reflection and then President-elect Mike Moore will provide an update on activities and issues being faced in the Canterbury Area over the in the past two years

Sister Clare Murphy will speak on the 'Life & Mission of Jesus and the call of the Vincentians' and will be followed by Kath Prins and Danielle Marra from St John of God based at Waipuna. They will explain the HOPE programme (wrap around services) that will be provided to clients at our social housing apartments in Pavitt Street, Richmond.

After refreshments, there will be three further presentations from Hannah Storey from The Loft, Carol Brown from Aviva, and Katie Dixon from Kainga Ora. All will speak on the community that we as Vincentians endeavour to support.

The day will conclude with Commissioning Awards before Mass is offered at 5pm.

This promises to be a very interesting day which all Vincentians will find to be of great value to the work that we undertake.



When: Saturday 10 September 2022
commencing with lunch at Noon

Where: Star of the Sea Parish Centre,
Dryden Street, Sumner

Congratulations
Olivia



In late August Olivia, our Youth and Young Adults' Development Officer, will be travelling to Vienna, Austria to pursue a short internship with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In 2020, the IAEA established a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP) which aims to support an inclusive workforce by increasing women in the field. The scholarship named after Marie Sklodowska-Curie, a winner of two Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry, aims to inspire young, motivated women to pursue careers in the nuclear field. Out of an application pool of over 550, Olivia is one of the first 100 women globally to be awarded an MSCFP scholarship. Since the completion of her master's research titled, 'Seventy-five Years on: An Ethnographic Exploration of Oral Histories on the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima,' Olivia has remained in contact with her research participants and has continued to speak out for peace and disarmament.

This year, Olivia has been given the opportunity to pursue an internship with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, and will be a part of the Safeguards Team working on two projects for the duration of her stay. She is looking forward to flying across the world to participate in this new and exciting journey. Olivia even managed to rent an apartment across the road from a Catholic church and hopes to meet other Vincentians overseas!

A message from-

UC Student Volunteer Army

It was lovely being able to help out in the Papanui Op Shop last Saturday so thank you for having us!



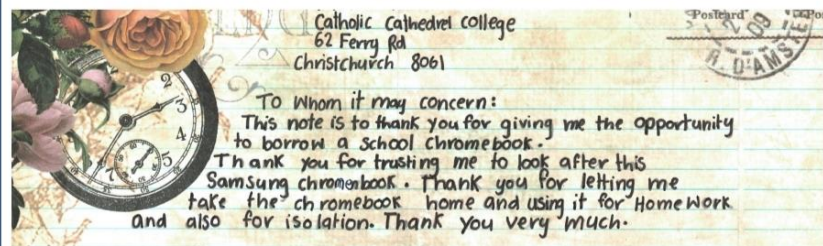
ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Catholic Cathedral College has been blessed to have a long standing relationship with St Vincent de Paul who have supported the kura and our rangatahi in many different ways over the years for example sponsoring individual students and providing specific support to families. We have long been aware of their wonderful generosity and example of service.

During a chance conversation with Brian Hutching, a member of the St Vincent de Paul team, ex-staff member and also a long term reliever at the college, we discussed the day to day issue facing kaiako when trying to deliver blended learning approaches in the classroom when not all students had devices. We discussed the disadvantages students without their own device faced, not only at school but also at home. Brian said he would have a think about how we could work together to support the students and away he went.

To our delight, the next time we spoke it was for us to be told that St Vincent de Paul had agreed to donate 53 devices to our kura. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from God." Our kaimahi and rangatahi have been overwhelmed by this wonderful contribution because we know what a positive impact it will have upon our approach to teaching and learning.

*to whom it may concern
Thank you for giving us these
amazing Chromebooks to help with
our education. Thank you so much
& I wish you well in the future.
much love from
a yr 10 student :3.*



VINNIES COMMISSIONING MASS

Wednesday 6 July 2022

WHAT A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION - THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED OUR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND CONFERENCE MEMBERS!

OVER 85 STUDENTS FROM 14 SCHOOLS WERE PRESENT!

The Mass, concelebrated by Fr Simon Eccleton and Fr Chris Orr, was a beautiful celebration to welcome and commission Young Vinnies and new Conference Vincentians to our Canterbury family of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. The Mass was organised by both our Vinnies Youth and Young Adult Development Officer Olivia Shimasaki and Conference Coordinator Shelley Knowles and Robyn Casey our General Manager helped with presenting the certificates. The Mass was followed by refreshments and fellowship.



WELCOME ANNA

We wish to welcome Anna on board as the new Store Manager for Stanmore Road. Anna started at the beginning of March and brings with her a BSc Psychology major and extensive job history including working with disabled, sewing and creating her own business, mother of two boys and volunteering at Vinnies Papanui for a few years.

Anna is loving her new role and enjoys the diversity of the customers and the wonderful volunteers.

“No two days are the same and some of the donations really keep you guessing” says Anna.



St Teresa of Calcutta SVDP Conference of

Selwyn

Ian Tennant, President

At the beginning of May 2021 there was a visit to Lincoln by Mike Daly, John Bell, and Penny Marks, outlining the aims of the Society and gauging interest in forming a conference. The result was that by June there was an embryo Selwyn parish conference. It is just over 13 months since then, and in that time we have established our fully functioning St Teresa of Calcutta Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. We have a bank account, web page, dedicated phone line, posters, business cards, and an active and talented group of Vincentians. From the earliest days we started helping people. Our first big project was our Christmas Hamper appeal. Our parish communities responded in an overwhelmingly generous way and we were able to make Christmas a bit easier for about 28 families. Since then requests for help have steadily increased.

Our conference is in an interesting situation. We have a huge district that goes from the Rakaia River to the city boundary and from Arthur's Pass to Te Waihora, encompassing many rural/urban centres including Springfield, Sheffield, Darfield, Hororata, Leeston, Southbridge, Springston, Rolleston, Lincoln, and Prebbleton. Distances are large, bringing their own challenges for us in meeting each other and meeting the requests from the needy, especially for those away from the major urban areas of our district. One big issue is a lack of storage space, as it is not practical to be supplied by Stanmore Road for many things.

Our conference is small, with about 15 active participants, who give so generously of their time. It is growing steadily, and we are very fortunate to have so many young, talented, and very committed members in our group.

The environment has not been the easiest in which to start our conference. We have not known what it is like to operate without the presence of Covid in our community, but, by the grace of God, and with the support of all the Vincentian community, and Mike Daly, John Bell, and Penny Marks in particular, we got off to a good start. We are in our second year now, and look forward to improving our relationships with God, each other, and the people we help.

A NEW FOOD SHED

For Catholic Cathedral Conference



Our Cathedral Conference has recently commissioned a repurposed space on site at the Pro Cathedral complex in Manchester Street.

The new facility was blessed by Fr Simon and will free up space preciously taken inside the Pro Cathedral, and will help our operations teams in developing a more effective food storage and work area to assemble Kai (food) packs for delivery to those in need.

Cathedral Conference now meets as a single conference but retains for now two operational bases – one in Innes road Mairehau in the St Francis of Assisi School, and the other in the Manchester Street Cathedral complex. Teams work from both operations bases and deliver food and other assistance to a wide area of the central and North Western areas of Christchurch.



Please pray for our deceased Vincentians

Newsletter compiled and
edited by:
Trish O'Keefe
Shelley Knowles

We'd love to hear your
stories!

If you have any news items
that you would like us to put
in our next newsletter,
please send us a short
article and a photo (*if you
have one*) to:

Trish O'Keefe
trish@sudpchch.co.nz

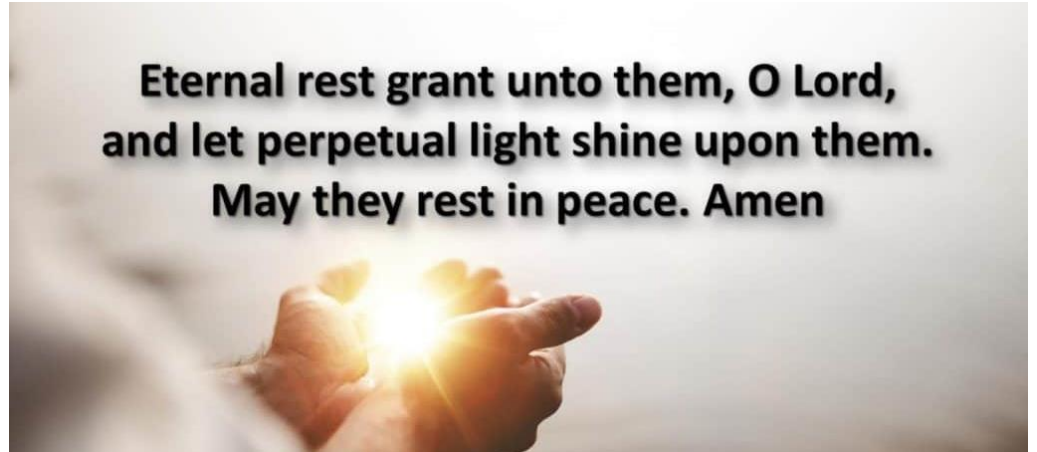
OR
Shelley Knowles
shelley@sudpchch.co.nz

Please pray for the souls of

Maurice Joseph Doocey who died on April 6, 2022. Maurice is the father of Clare Doocey, President of St Teresa's Conference and John Doocey, Vincentian St Teresa's Conference. Please keep Maurice, Clare, John, and the family in your prayers.

Gary Lennon who died 2 May 2022. Gary, survived by his wife Claire, have been long serving Vincentians with the Papanui Conference. Please keep Gary, Claire, and extended family in your prayers.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen**



A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace.

— Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*



**Charity is the cement which binds
communities to God and persons to
one another...**

St Vincent de Paul