



MEMBRE DE LA SOCIETE  
DE SAINTE-VINCENT DE PAUL



SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

# News in Brief

August 2016 | Issue 13

Welcome to our latest e-news, which is filled with stories from around the country from hard-working volunteers and staff who are helping people in a practical way every-day. If you have an event coming up or a story you would like us to share, please email it to us at: [national@svdp.org.nz](mailto:national@svdp.org.nz)

## World Youth Day - Krakow

Young Vincentians: Being the Hands & Feet of Christ



“It is certain that when charity abides in a soul it takes entire possession of all its powers; charity allows it no rest; it is an ever-growing fire.” St. Vincent de Paul

The 2016 Vincentian Youth Days took place on 23rd - 26th July at the Radosna Nowina Centre in Piekary, Liszki, Poland.

The gathering, themed “Vincentians Faithful to Mercy: yesterday, today, tomorrow” saw 1300 young Vincentians from 35 countries coming together in fellowship, sharing, learning, prayer and celebration.

At the center of the gathering was Christ and the unifying power and presence of the Holy Spirit among our young people on full display as they sang, danced, prayed, and even cried together despite the barriers of language, heat, and blistered feet.

It was a beautiful experience to witness the outpouring of the Spirit in the celebration of the Sacraments, in the teaching of the faith and in sharing and learning with young people from all corners of the planet, who shared with each other their aspirations and the challenges as young Vincentians.

While social justice issues may often seem at odds with the materialistic culture reflected in modern society, this gathering reminded us that as young Vincentians and indeed as young people of faith.

We are called to follow the teachings of Christ, exemplified so well by our patrons St. Vincent De Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam - to remind the world that “we belong” to each other and that we are called to love and serve our brothers and sisters. This is a call that has been taken up by Vincentians around the world, including the Australian delegation led by Cass Bull, whom we spent time sharing and learning from.

Matt Kirkan shared that “the cultural festival has been an absolute highlight as well as saying ‘The Our Father’ in many languages. It was really beautiful.”

It was truly remarkable how a group of complete strangers with a shared passion can make such an unexpected impact on your life; on your heart, and on how you see the world.

Many of the young people gathered there shared this sentiment.

Rebecca Pefkos from the delegation, shared that her highlight was: “The unity and friendship was amazing. The singing in the breaks was really fun and taught us lots about other cultures.”

With the Vincentian gathering coming to a close, Vincentians from around the globe will now continue their spiritual journey during World Youth Day in Krakow.

With open eyes, minds, hands and hearts, these young Vincentians from around the world have responded to the call to be a force for social justice as they continue to strive to be the hands and feet of our Lord.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:35-36)*

**Mary Moeono-Kolio**

Young Vincentian, Auckland



## A new President International for SSVV

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has a new President General International.



**Renato Lima de Oliveira** has been elected during the General Assembly in Roma on Sunday June 5th. Renato Lima who is 45-years of age has been a member since 1986.

He has held various posts within the Society including posts on the Youth Committee as well as constantly undertaking activities in his Conference. Since 2008 he has been

the Territorial Vice-President (South America) and during the last 3 years has represented the International General Council for dealings with the Vincentian Family.

A journalist by profession he is also the author of a number of publications including the "Vincentian Chronicles."

Renato Lima de Oliveira succeeds Dr. Michael Thio who was on this position since 2010. He will be responsible for the direction of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for a term of 6 years and will take office on September 9th, the feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

## Renato Lima de Oliveira greeted the Pope in Rome

The newly elected General President, Renato Lima de Oliveira greeted Pope Francis on the 8th June in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

The brief meeting took place at the end of the public audience with the Holy Father on the place.

It was attended by the participants of the General Assembly of the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.



## Pope greets Vincentians

Bishop Dolan was at the International Assembly of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, held in Rome 3- 5 June 2016. There were National Presidents from well over 100 countries present at the Assembly.

Terry Comber the National President of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand represented New Zealand.

At the meeting Mr Renato Lima de Oliverira from Brazil was elected as the new International President of the Society.

The Gospel reflection of the day from Pope Francis:

*"I exhort you to pray with special intensity to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary that they will teach you how to love God and neighbor with full dedication".*



Bishop Owen Dolan, Coadjutor Bishop of Palmerston North, is pictured above with Pope Francis who is pointing out to him the presence of the St Vincent de Paul group at the General Audience just 50 meters away. The photo shows the Pope acknowledging the group with a wave.

"Not paying a just wage,  
not providing work,  
focusing exclusively on  
the balance books,  
on financial statements,  
only looking at making  
personal profit.  
That goes against God!"

**Pope Francis - 1st May 2013**

## Pop-Up Kids VINNIES Shop

The pilot Pop Up Kids Vinnie’s Shop is rented on a week to week basis with a total focus on children and families.

Hamilton spotted an opportunity and filled the shop with toys, books clothes, cots, prams , highchairs and many other items suitable for children.

The Pop-up Shop shop now frees up space in the adjoining Frankton shops and this has allowed the Society space to better display both clothing and furniture tableware and china.

Early signs prove that the idea is a hit and has been well supported by a strong customer base.

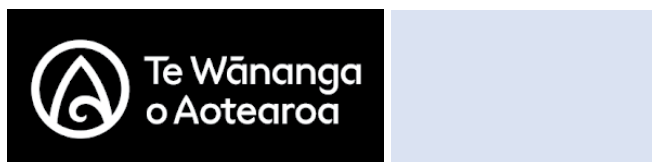


## Literacy classes

In conjunction with Te Wananga o Aotearoa the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Hamilton are soon to commence a Papa Kupu class on the Frankton site.

To date five students aged between 45-53 have had the confidence to sign up for the literacy class. They have, for various reasons, not had the opportunity to finish school and lack the confidence to read, write, or fill out a form.

The classes are free of charge in a learning environment where students will feel safe and relaxed. It is envisioned class numbers will grow throughout the 2016 year.



## HEALTH & SAFETY

The new Health & Safety Policy is about to be released and will be available on the Society website. A big step for the Society - the focus is on our people.

“EVERYONE HOME SAFELY - EVERY NIGHT”

### MOTEUKA

## Firewood project

The Motueka conference have for many years now, run a firewood project to assist those in the community who sometimes cannot afford firewood for heating, an issue which increases in demand yearly.

There are regular working bees, with the majority of the wood coming from pallets which need to be cut and stacked, in 2 wood sheds which were the result of a bequest from a parishioner. We are also sometimes donated wood from felled trees and other sources.

We were fortunate this year to gain permission from a local orchard, to remove apple trees for our project, if we could do it within a week, before the big machinery came in to push them up and burn them.

Our members rallied, and with the generous help of their spouses and friends from the parish, we managed to remove a very good sized pile one Saturday. While the wood is too green for this winter, it will ensure a good supply for next year. The wood is stacked to dry, and will be cut and split closer to summer, then stacked away ready for next winter. We are very grateful both to the owner of the orchard and to all the helpers who made this possible.



President Anne Lane in front of the pile of apple wood.

## Report from Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka consists of 12 Dioceses and we have established around 315 conferences all over the Island. The largest diocese is Colombo with 15 deaneries. There are 132 conferences plus 14 school conferences in Archdiocese of Colombo alone.

Most of our conferences have undertaken care for elderly people who are helpless. We see to the needs of Children such as uniforms, schoolbooks and tuition fees etc.

We provide monthly rations for poor families.

Sick people are taken care by providing medications as per prescriptions and providing cash.

We help number of ladies widowed owing to the war and we have provided them with decent shelter and help them with daily needs wherever required.

All these are made possible mainly through the funds received from New Zealand.

### Special Projects

New Zealand conferences have helped many to build 15 houses for people who were living in shanties and this has enabled us to start self help projects like making sweets and savories for sale, and in some areas, goat rearing.

Some women were given sewing machines to start a home industry so that they could sell their clothing to the local community some others got start up grants for poultry these are only a few to mention.

The National Council of Sri Lanka is very grateful for the support from New Zealand Councils and Conferences for their help. On behalf I all who benefit from the generous donations we would like to thank you all.

### Visaka Weliwita

National President



*What a difference a new house makes. On the left is an old house and on the right a new house.*



#### Please send to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul  
PO Box 10-815, The Terrace,  
Freeport 992,  
WELLINGTON 6143

## Celebrating our 150th Anniversary 1867 to 2017

### Request for Archival Material

For 150 years Conferences and Councils of the Society in New Zealand have acquired, documented and preserved the Society's most important works through articles, minutes, reports and photographs.

Our 150th Anniversary in 2017 celebrates the Society's achievements and pays tribute to pioneer Vincentians who performed their charitable works despite adverse personal and economic hardships by adherence to the spirit of the Society and love of thy neighbour.

The fire in 1981 at the building in Woodward Street, Wellington, tenanted by the National Office of the Society, destroyed reports, correspondence and minute books dating back many years probably to our earliest days. Reports and another papers have also been lost in various accommodation shifts, as past records made way for smaller rental accommodation.

If your Conference or Council are able to assist with any archival material from the early years of the Society in New Zealand it would be very much appreciated. Some of this information may be found in old Conference and Council minute books, Society documents, records and from Vincentians who have memories of the earlier years.

## Young Vinnies in the Volunteering New Plymouth Volunteer Speed Dating Event



The Young Vinnies are a group of about 20 Year 5 and 6 students from St Joseph's Primary School, New Plymouth who volunteer and fundraise in the community and are part of the New Plymouth Conference of St Vincent De Paul Society.

Six children enthusiastically volunteered their time to attend Volunteering New Plymouth Volunteer Speed Dating Event.

They put together a presentation to encourage other young people to join them. They spoke to thirteen groups of Year 11 SHGC students. Initially they found the task a little daunting presenting to people much older but their confidence grew and they were able to get their message across in a very sincere manner.

They spoke about their Friday afternoons volunteering at NP Foodbank which allows them to show gratitude for what they themselves have and help those in need. They explained some of their more interesting fundraising ideas such as toy swaps, crazy hair days and selling 'Yoda Sodas'.

They also discussed an ongoing project which is making bookmarks which they will present to Rest homes. This is part of the Young Vinnies response to Pope Francis' Year of Mercy.

The Young Vinnies group has been going for four Years at St Joseph's school. The idea of service towards others fits in perfectly with the Catholic Social teachings. The children are always keen to attend meetings in their lunch hour and to help those less privileged in our community.



## ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL - KAIAPOI, CANTERBURY

### Faith in Action Clothing Drive

Our Young Vinnie's group consist of thirteen enthusiastic senior students and the three in the photo are (left to right) Madison O'Loughlin, George Gunn and Kyra Woodward.

The students organised and promoted the clothing drive by visiting the classrooms and speaking about the dignity of the poor and why it is important to give clothing that isn't ripped/ stained etc.

The clothing will be distributed to the needy or sold in the SVDP shop at Stanmore Road.



## Lettuce help the less fortunate

The St Joseph School Young Vinnie's are a small group of very prayerful and practical students who think outside the square for their actions. They turned recycled plastic bottles into lettuce pots and gifted them to families in need. Hungry students were encouraged to collect and eat the lettuce leaves. The leaves were very delicious and healthy to eat according to the students we interviewed!

The Dominican Sisters still have an active role in the school supporting the students. The Principal of St Joseph's primary is Mrs. Canny. The school is a low decile one with many needs.

The way the young Vinnie's students work for those less fortunate than themselves has inspired the staff who are committed to collecting uniforms, shoes, socks, blouses, shorts and shirts to have available for families who have fallen on hard times.

These actions, are aimed at making a positive difference in their school and for their own school families. We are proud of these primary school Young Vinnie's from Invercargill!



## Young Vinnies Report - Hawkes Bay

### ST MARY'S SCHOOL - HASTINGS

25 Young Vinnies made Matariki lanterns which became part of a school wide art display to show parents/ caregivers etc the artistic talent of the children.

### ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL - NAPIER

6 Young Vinnies spend the last few weeks of term preparing and then visiting the child care EduKids next door. We received a warm welcome from the little children.

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - HASTINGS

Our last few weeks have been very busy learning and teaching 25 Young Vinnies how to knit. Our very modest aim is to make a blanket to donate to those in need overseas.



### SAINT JOHNS - HASTINGS

We finished the term with a Tuesday breakfast. We also featured in the Welcome magazine as contributing to the Year of Mercy "Acts of Mercy - feeding hungry". The last day of term saw a group of 10 Vinnies making soup and distributing this to staff, students and parents.



### SACRED HEART COLLEGE - NAPIER

12 Vinnies continue with their lunches. Still a very successful project.

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - WAIPUKURAU

A group of 10 Vinnies made lanterns and a huge Welcome sign for the school Matariki Festival. They help dig the Hangi pit and peel vegetables for the day as well.



## Helping Merivale School's Families

Hearing about a Merivale School boy with no bed prompted the Young Vinnies at St Mary's Catholic School to begin collecting unwanted furniture, bedding and clothing for homeless families in their community.

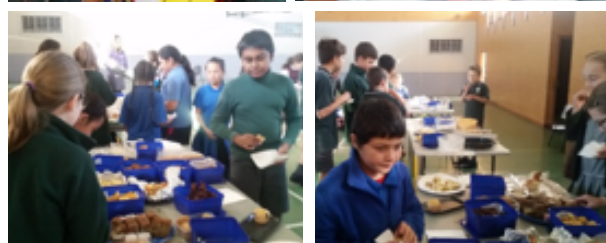
The story of the 10 year old Tauranga boy and his 8 year old brother - both of whom they were told had never had beds - shocked them and gave them the drive to start helping Merivale School.

Since the beginning of 2016, Year 6 Young Vinnies group have so far delivered two vanloads of bedding, household items, and furniture to Merivale School, where 10 per cent of pupils are living in temporary accommodation such as cars and garages. We have had the support of St Mary's families who have also donated several items of furniture to Merivale, after the Young Vinnies put out a call to their school.

Our group of 60 pupils and Liz Driver our helping teacher, raised \$700 at a cupcake sale which we used to make 10 baby packs including baby clothes for Merivale newborns and for babies from 3 to 12 months. The baby pack also included packages of nappies, wipes, baby formula, bibs, bottles, baby shampoo, teething toys and a blanket. A St. Mary family also donated a bassinet.

Parents at St Mary's, a Decile 8 school, have also dropped off parcels to Decile 1 Merivale School independently of the Young Vinnies, calling to say they have spare furniture.

Merivale School Principal Jan Tinetti told us that she is seeing first hand the impact Tauranga's homeless problem has had on her students, she says many Merivale families are finding themselves without homes as a result of their rental properties being sold. They are then unable to secure affordable alternative accommodation in the face of rental shortages and rising rents due to Tauranga's property boom. Sadly for the families, furniture often had to be ditched because they had nowhere to store it while searching for new accommodation, or in some cases, it needed to be sold to pay the bond on a new rental.



As a 'Thank You', we were invited to Merivale School as an end of the term activity. Our Young Vinnies organized a shared lunch for them, so there was a great amount of savoury and sweet food. This was the perfect occasion to hand out the Baby Packs, there were at least 8 new babies within Merivale's school families so they came just in time.

It was very exciting seeing all the kids playing games together having a lot of fun. Merivale students performed a Haka for us and we sang some songs for them.

It was such a great day at Merivale School, our kids had great fun and they could get a glance of the good work they did for other children and their families. Merivale kids were happy and grateful.



St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Tauranga



ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

## Sundaes Ice-cream Fundraiser

\$300 raised. The money raised is to make Homeless Packs. The packs include: socks, gloves, bennies, head lamps, protein snacks, wipes, disposable razors, small tissues packs, basic toiletries. Great response from the students. Yummy ice-cream sundaes, everyone enjoyed them!



AQUINAS COLLEGE

## Service Day 2016

As we did last year, we invited 140 students from Merivale School to spend a day at Aquinas College.

We organized Merivale School into groups of 20 so they could rotate through the different activities such as Netball and touch Rugby. Arts and crafts activities. Drama/musical theatre. Game Room. Toy area/time out place. Science Activity. Big BBQ for lunch!

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL - PAEROA

## Visit to Ohinemuri Rest Home

The Young Vinnies decided to visit the Ohinemuri Rest Home being this the Year of Mercy. They did a brief research about the Year of Mercy and found out that it meant compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Activities: Handmade postcards with a poem and a drawing. Prepare songs for them. Did homemade baking to share with the elderly. Share with them stories so that they can talk with the patients.



ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL - MATAMATA

## Visit to Pohlen Hospital

Activities: Performed a Play called "Lucky Dip". Shared stories with them. Gave them handmade greeting cards. Shared afternoon tea with them with homemade baking.





## Holy Ravioli! Cookbook Reveals The Vatican's Favorite Recipes

Pope Francis loves Argentinian empanadas and dulce de leche. In 2015 he said that if he had only one wish, it would be to travel unrecognized to a pizzeria and have a slice or two or three.

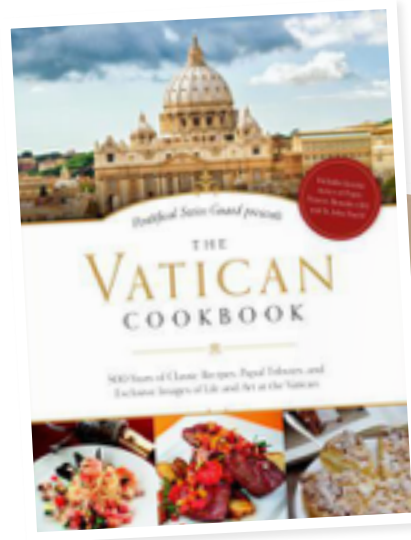
In other words, he may be protected by the world's smallest army and be responsible for the spiritual governance of 1.2 billion people, but when it comes to eating, Pope Francis loves comfort food as much as the next person.

The papacy is one of those institutions that is endlessly fascinating. Regardless of our religious backgrounds or belief systems, we tend to take note not only of what the pope says and does, but what he wears, what kind of car he's driven around in – and what he eats.

Thus The Vatican Cookbook, published in April by the Sophia Institute in Nashua, New Hampshire, US, which has the compelling subtitle of '500 Years of Classic Recipes, Papal Tributes and Exclusive Images of Life and Art at the Vatican'.



Polish nuns do most of the cooking at the Vatican. Here, they prepare sweets for the Feast of St. Nicholas.



The Vatican Cookbook includes some of Pope Francis's favourite dishes.



But this is as much a practical cookbook as it is a coffee-table book for the devout. There are more than 80 recipes, including dishes that were favorites of the current pope, as well as his two predecessors, and thus feature dishes from Argentina (Pope Francis), Bavaria (Pope Benedict XVI) and Poland (Pope John Paul II).

of patron saints, the Pieta, the pasta stations, and sections devoted to the recent popes and the Pontifical Swiss Guard, the uniformed men who pledge to serve and protect the pope and who 'present' the cookbook (today, there are 110 of them).

The book was written not by the nuns who do the majority of cooking at the Vatican, but by David Geisser (a former chef who published two cookbooks before joining the guard), Erwin Niederberger and Daniel Anrig, all current or former members of the guard.

There are a few 'table prayers' here, but they're included at the end, after a section devoted to 'basic recipes' that includes pasta dough, pizza dough, polenta - and truffle risotto.

In Vatican City, truffle risotto is a basic recipe. In other words, it's all kind of lovely, whether your devotion extends to God or to tiramisu, or maybe to both.

## McDonald's Treat

### Supporting the Society in Hamilton

A collaborative effort between McDonalds and the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Hamilton is a community-focused effort to hunger and poverty and a testament to how the well community work together.

McDonalds will donate, assemble, deliver and serve meals from the Society's mobile night Van and the Soup kitchen with a volunteer crew. The initiative is designed as a 'treat' for families who do not have a disposable income. McDonalds will also generously supply vouchers to the Society to distribute at their discretion.

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."*

- MOTHER TERESA -

## Frozen Meal Bank

Anne Gough one of our Committee members suggested we have a 'Frozen Meal Bank' for our Parish.

The idea is to have a supply of meals to be able to give to individuals or families with someone who is either terminally ill, with a sick baby or having hospital treatment.

We have had a good response from the Parish community with providing meals as we supply the foil dishes. We are reliant on members of the Parish to keep us informed of anyone who would appreciate some help. We are currently helping two families.



*Judy Brocherie (Secretary),  
Anne Gough (Committee  
member and instigator of the  
Frozen Meal Bank) and Ileen  
McGrath (President).*

## *Thank you to all our volunteers...*

You give so much of your time but Life is short.

In the scheme of things this often quoted saying must be true. Our planet has been here for millions of years and we have lived our lives. But on our headstones will be the etching of when we were born and the date we died.

For example 1960-2050.

What matters to me are not the two blocks of years mentioned. It is the dash. That little dash - in between the two blocks.

That's our life. That represents to me the short time we have here, to make a difference, or not.

And making a difference means so many different things to so many people.

But for you, the helper, what you do during that dash is most significant.

You can give money for a cause. Sure, say you give a dollar a month. It is appreciated without a doubt. It is your dollar. But your biggest gift to our community is time. But how do we give back time?

As a volunteer you give time. Time. The most precious resource in our lives.

Look at the dash between the years on the gravestone. How many hours are in there?

It's not billions. It's not infinite.

Money can be printed. Time cannot.

Once you give an hour of your time, it is gone forever. That hour you just gave volunteering will never be replicated.

Your time volunteering must be valued, but we can never put a value on that time.

It is not how long the space is between the block of years, but how we spent it.

How can you value something that is priceless?

As a volunteer in any generous work of kindness, you bring so much to this community of ours.

Skills, advice, experience, friendship, vision, leadership, inspiration, comfort, wellbeing, security, safety.

Today we want to say thank you for your strength and kindness. You have always been there to meet the needs.

This is to tell you that you are all really appreciated volunteers paid and unpaid. Thank you for being with us on the journey at this time...May God bless you all.



**Father Phil King-Turner SM (RIP)**  
*Reefton Parish*

# Project knits community together

On Friday 10 June, the St. Paul's Vinnies, members of the Nelson Federation of Women's Institute and members of the Richmond Creative Fibres group saw their six week knitting project culminate in presenting Carol Marshall, facilitator of Ma's Place in Richmond with a selection of knitted baby booties.



Ma's Place, a facility that opened its doors in February of this year to assist mothers and young families through the resources and support services that it provides, has developed an ongoing relationship with the Vinnies of St. Paul's School who in 2015 in preparation for its opening created for the facility a large painted mural for its childcare room and a number of applique blankets.

This latest project involved members of the Nelson Women's Institute and Richmond Creative Fibres Group being paired up with students from the St. Paul's Vinnies group in teaching them how to knit. It was a project that tied in perfectly with the National Federation of Women's Institute theme of 'Nurturing the Nation' which over the next two years is encouraging its members to be involved in a number of projects based around the title 'Adopt a...' in this case - adopting a young person in helping them develop this skill. "It was fantastic to see the bond that was created between these women and the students they worked with", reported Philippa Winch Society of St. Vincent de Paul Nelson Area Council Youth Coordinator. "Not only did this project provide students the opportunity to learn how to knit but intergenerational friendships were formed in the process."

Approximately thirty pairs of knitted baby booties were donated to Ma's Place in Richmond as a result of this project and it has also encouraged the adult knitters who were involved to further assist Ma's Place in teaching mothers how to knit. It is a project that has not only knitted members of various community groups together but promises to continue making an impact in the community through the ongoing relationships established.



Ma's Place

A safe space for mothers, and families with young children, where they can connect and be supported within a caring community.

Our aim is that families are enabled to thrive not just survive.

[www.masplace.org.nz](http://www.masplace.org.nz)

## News in Brief

### Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand

PO Box 10-815, The Terrace, Wellington 6143 (Freepost 992)

Level 1, 35 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011

Email: [national@svdp.org.nz](mailto:national@svdp.org.nz) | [www.svdp.org.nz](http://www.svdp.org.nz)

Phone: 04 499 5070 | Fax: 04 499 4563

## We'd Love to Read your Stories:

If you have any news items that you would like us to put in our next 'News in Brief' e-newsletter, please send us a short article and a photo (if you have one) to Anne-Marie McCarten, email: [national@svdp.org.nz](mailto:national@svdp.org.nz)

## Rest in Peace

**Jean Jansen** was President of the Napier St. Patrick's Conference until very recently, went to her eternal rest on August 11th 2016. She became President in June 2013, and spent many hours visiting the sick, the lonely and the housebound. She was a real 'people person', despite her ongoing health problems over this time, and she will be sadly missed by those she visited, the Conference, the Napier Area Council and her parish family at St. Patrick's, Napier.