



MEMBRE DE LA SOCIETE
DE SAINTE-VINCENT DE PAUL



SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

News in Brief

December 2015 | Issue 10

Welcome to our last e-newsletter for the 2015. Thank you for sharing your stories in 2015 and we look forward to sharing your new stories in 2016.



Season's greetings from the National President for the Society in New Zealand



In this Advent season where we patiently await the birth of Christ we reflect with thanks on the good works undertaken by you all

for the Society. It will soon be time to meet with family and friends to take a break from your usual activities.

Sadly however, the needs of the people we serve are just as great at this time of the year so I remind you to put in place a process to handle the emergencies which may occur in your area over the Christmas and New Year period. Be generous with the food parcels and Christmas cheer as we trust 'the Lord will provide'.

I sincerely thank you for your generosity of time and attendance in your good works including administration of the Society in your area.

May the peace of Christ be with you this Christmas season and may the guiding spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam continue to assist you in your Vincentian vocation.

God Bless

**Terry Comber - National President,
St Vincent de Paul New Zealand**

A Christmas message from Bishop Owen Dolan



When Pope Francis was in Washington DC last year, he visited a shelter for the homeless. It led him to reflect on Mary and Joseph arriving in

Bethlehem to discover that there was nowhere to stay. "Let us imagine what they must have been thinking" he said " the Son of God has no home ".. The shepherds found the Holy Family. But, then, they were poor, too, so they looked in poor places.

Vincentians will be able to relate to all this, because they, too, search for and serve the

poor. Today, Vincentians will probably find the homeless poor in an overcrowded house, or a damp one, or in a car.

May we all be givers of gifts, of peace and of joy, to the homeless, this Christmas.

And may the gift we receive at this time be a deeper understanding of the wonderful gift that God has given us in His Son, Jesus, born poor.

Blessings to all

Bishop Owen Dolan



A New Zealand Christmas



Oh, the grace was on it that He chose that country—
We have kind oxen and our straw is sweet,
We have shepherds too now, and stables and a manger,
Had we but one footprint of His little feet!
Oh, my heart goes crying through these days of summer,
Through the sleepy summer, slow with streams and bees,
Had my land been old then, here He might have lighted,
Here have seen His first moon in the *ngaio* trees.
Oh, my heart goes crying through these days of waiting
While our lilies open and our *tuts* sing,
Had my Lord been born here angels might have ringed us,
Standing round our islands wing wide to wing.
Had my Lord been born here in the time of *rata*,
Three dark-eyed chieftains would have knelt to Him,
With greenstone and mats and the proud *huia* feather,
And the eyes of Mary, seeing, would grow dim.

Oh, my heart goes crying through these days of waiting,
We too have oxen and our straw is sweet,
We too have shepherds and stables and a manger,
Oh, for one clear footprint of His little feet!

by Eileen Duggan



Every best wish for a Happy & Blessed Christmas

From Anne-Marie & Natasha

National Office Closure 23 December - 20 January

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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 | 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