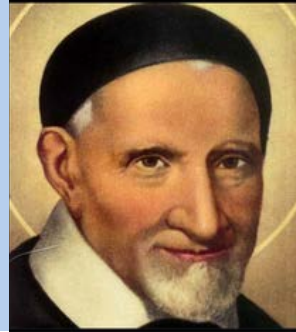




NEWSLETTER

St Vincent de Paul
Canterbury Area Council

July 2025



svdpcanterbury.nz

From Mike Moore Canterbury Area President

Dear Vincentians, Volunteers, Friends, Sponsors and Supporters

Winter is certainly upon us with temperatures plummeting that demands we wear our winter woollies! I know there are many in society who do not have access to such essential clothing. To help alleviate this need, our Young Vinnies across the schools in Canterbury held a winter woollies campaign that resulted in large volumes of clothes becoming available for those in need. Thanks to Cyrene and all the members of Young Vinnies who participated!

With economic conditions tough, the demands on Vinnies services continues to grow and I must acknowledge all our Conference volunteers that visit and support those in need. Their service is a critical part of our mission of supporting the poor and those in need. Also, Vinnies is very grateful to all our supporters whose generous support enables our good works to continue. We also recently celebrated Volunteer week with morning teas held in our shops for our Volunteers.

This winter edition features several interesting articles including the recent visit of Mike Daly (Stella Maris Conference) to the tomb of our Founder – 'Blessed Frederic Ozanam,' Winter Woollies from Cyrene, the Catholic Business Network event that supported Vinnies in their drive to raise funds for a new truck plus the appointment of our new Manager.

I wish everyone an enjoyable read and I would love to get your feedback and any ideas for our future newsletters.

God Bless, **Mike Moore - Area President**



**Pope Francis recently in
Papua New Guinea**

In Memory of Pope Francis (Courtesy of Vatican News).

Pope Francis' funeral was held on 26 April, and Catholics worldwide mourned the loss of this exceptional Pope. Inspired by the poor man of Assisi, Pope Francis always gave greater value to gestures than to discourse. *As he wrote in Fratelli Tutti: "St Francis of Assisi did not wage a war of words... he simply spread the love of God... In this way, he became a father to all and inspired the vision of a fraternal society."*

May our mourning for Pope Francis be translated into concrete actions. Let us build, step by step, gesture by gesture, that fraternal society he spoke of.

May his memory be a blessing.

Visit to the Tomb of Blessed Frederic Ozanam

During a recent holiday trip to France, Mike and Marianne Daly took time to visit the tomb of Blessed Frederic Ozanam in Paris. The tomb is situated in a Crypt chapel below the main Sanctuary of the historic church of St. Joseph des Carmes. During the visit to the Crypt, another group visiting the church comprising of a French Priest and his students, celebrated Mass in the beautiful crypt chapel, inviting Mike and Marianne to join them. Mike said It was a wonderful experience to pray in the presence of Frederic's tomb and share in the liturgy with French students on their mission to learn more of our Blessed Frederic Ozanam. The Church of St. Joseph des Carmes was a favourite of Frederic's as he reportedly attended daily Mass.



Tomb of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Paris France, Mike Daly

Appointment of Polly Fisher as Manager at Vinnies Canterbury

Congratulations Polly!



It is with much pleasure that I can announce the appointment of Polly Fisher to the position of Manager, Business Development & Operations for Society of St Vincent de Paul in Canterbury.

Polly's title reflects the recommendations made by Simon Thompson in his recent review of Vinnies.

Our congratulations are extended to Polly who started in her new role on Monday, 30 June 2025.

Catholic Business Network (CBN) event

The CBN held an excellent event at the Commodore Hotel last week where the key speaker was Simon Challies (former CEO of Ryman Healthcare and co-founder of BrainTree Wellness Centre). Simon shared his remarkable journey of leadership whilst overcoming adversity in conversation with Ed Sparrow. Sadly, Simon was diagnosed with Parkinsons in 2017 but continued to work for Ryman for some years. He was fondly farewelled by the residents at all the Ryman properties when he stepped down after 18 years as CEO. Simon was awarded the Kings Award for his services to Neurology.

This was a very enjoyable event with approximately 150 guests attending. Our thanks go to the major sponsor – Michael Patterson - of the Commodore Hotel as he donated all the proceeds from the event to Vinnies in their quest to fundraise \$100k for a new delivery truck.



Simon in conversation with Ed Sparrow



The team promoting Vinnies at the CBN event

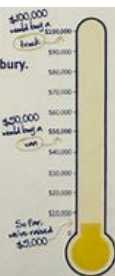
Help Us Deliver Hope!

We're raising funds to purchase a new delivery vehicle for St Vincent de Paul Canterbury.



Why another truck you ask?!

- Our existing truck does not meet the increased demand of welfare needs
- Enable the team to reach more households, respond more quickly, and work more safely.
- To collect your generous donations of household furniture that raises funds for our outreach



Can you help?

Can you help us keep delivering hope to Cantabrians struggling and in need of helping hand?

Your donation will help us:

- Reach more households in crisis
- Deliver hope, quite literally into the hands of those who need it most
- Continue our hands-on community outreach

Every dollar counts.



To Donate or find out more:

Scan the QR code or contact Polly

021 339 289, email polly@svdpcanterbury.nz



Winter Woollies Appeal – A Heartwarming Success!

This Term, our Winter Woollies appeal has once again reminded us of the incredible generosity and compassion within our school communities. Thanks to the inspiring commitment of our schools and the tireless efforts of the Young Vinnies, we have been able to provide warmth and comfort to those most in need during the coldest months of the year.

Together, you have helped generate an estimated value of \$10,000 in donations so far—a truly remarkable achievement. With a few schools still waiting to book their pick-ups, we are confident that the final total will reach close to \$15,000. This outstanding result is a testament to the caring spirit and solidarity that our students, teachers, and volunteers embody so beautifully.

To all the schools who participated, to the dedicated teachers who supported and encouraged their students, and to the Young Vinnies who led this mission with such passion and empathy—thank you. Your efforts have made a real and lasting difference in the lives of others. The warmth you've shared goes beyond winter clothing; it's the warmth of kindness, community, and hope.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Cyrene Tionko

Vinnies Youth and Young Adult Coordinator



thanks
for your
kindness!



WINTER WOOLLIES



Celebrating Our Vinnies Volunteers

During Volunteer Week, Vinnies held special morning teas at each of our shops to express our gratitude to our dedicated volunteers. We honoured their invaluable service with a small gift and a Certificate of Service. Vinnies simply couldn't operate and deliver its essential services without the generosity of our amazing volunteers, so a heartfelt thank you to each and every one!



VOLUNTEER WEEK



'Vinnie's mum' not slowing down

■ By Geoff Sloan

SHARON CAREY has been volunteering for most of her life. The energetic 77-year-old Dallington resident has been a volunteer shop assistant at St Vincent De Paul's Stanmore Rd store in Richmond for the past 10 years.

"It's like family here. A few of them call me Vinnie's mum because I've been here for so long," she said.

Sharon is a retired mental health caregiver who lives on her own.

She looks forward to her four weekly shifts at Vinnies.

"We have a lot of fun."

But the increasing cost of living was hitting some people really hard, she said.

"It's the state of the world, isn't it? Take me back to the '50s any day."

Sharon said they were seeing a lot of new customers recently, from a variety of backgrounds. Clothing was the most popular item.

She said op-shops like Vinnies that sell quality items at affordable prices play a vital role in the community.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul operates five shops in Canterbury: Richmond, Papamui, Hornby, Ashburton and Timaru. A direct service not-for-profit, it



ON THE JOB: Sharon Carey has volunteered at St Vincent De Paul for about a decade.

PHOTO: GEOFF SLOAN

distributed more than \$1.1 million of welfare in the region last year, including \$792,000 of food parcels.

Sharon said she started volunteering at Vinnies shortly after she retired. She had visited her cousin who worked there.

"The manager mentioned to

me that they were looking for volunteers. I thought to myself, I just can't sit around all day doing nothing, so I accepted the offer."

Sharon said it was great getting to know the regular customers.

"A lot of them are on their own, so I think they like the

company. Some come in every day."

Sharon also volunteers at New Brighton Museum on Wednesday afternoons, and used to be a Meals on Wheels driver in the 1970s.

She also mentors a 14-year-old girl recently diagnosed with

Our Great Volunteers



CALL TO ACTION

Do you know someone doing valuable volunteer work in the community? Send their details in 200 words or less to geoff.sloan@starmedia.kiwi

Crohn's disease and her younger sister, helping to take some pressure off their mother.

"Unfortunately their dad died from cancer, and their brother has brain cancer."

A keen swimmer, Sharon takes the two sisters on trips and swimming every week.

She said she has no intention of slowing down anytime soon. "I'll stay (at Vinnies) as long as I can."

For information about volunteering at St Vincent De Paul, contact national@svdp.org.nz

Farewell Kaye!

We said Farewell to Kaye Rooney, one of our longest serving volunteers from Stanmore Road. Kaye has decided to retire from her Vinnies service and we thank her for her amazing commitment of 20 years to Vinnies Stanmore.

We will miss you Kaye!



Kaye Rooney on the right
Deslie Field left

Thank you!



Vinnies
good works



The Flatpack Co.

We received an extremely generous donation of boxed mattresses from The Flatpack Company.



Thank you for your generous donation of mattresses! Your kindness is deeply appreciated. Knowing that these mattresses will provide comfort and support to those in need is heartwarming. We are grateful for your contribution to our community.

Recognition of the Holy Faith Sisters and their dedication to the SVDP Society in the Conferences of Fatima Mairehau.

Sr Deirdre Nelson in her role as the Principal of Our Lady of Fatima School started Young Vinnies over 40 years ago and the children remain active in this group today. Along with Sr Cora Grennan, they were active members of our Conference over many years.

In the more recent years, Deirdre and Cora have been living in Diana Isaac Retirement Village. Sr Deirdre and Sr Cora worked together in our School, Parish and SVDP for five decades. What a legacy of faithful service.

In May this year, after 50 years in New Zealand, Sr Cora returned to Ireland to be close to her family. Sadly, very shortly after, on 8 June, Sr Deirdre passed away and a lovely celebration of her life was held at St Mary's Pro Cathedral on 16 June. While Sr Cora wasn't able to travel to be there, she watched the live-stream service from her home in Ireland



Sr Deirdre & Sr Cora last year at our morning tea for our Past Members of SVDP



Deirdre and Cora, thank you both for your dedication to Our Lady of Fatima School, Parish and ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY over several decades.

It was Sr Deirdre and Sr Cora (Grennan) who encouraged me to join SVDP 35 years ago. My personal heartfelt thanks to you both for your treasured friendship and kindness over just as many years.

Enjoy your time at home with your family Sr Cora.

Sr Deirdre - rest in eternal peace.

- Trish O'Keefe

Dates to note and add to your Calendar

• Annual Festival Day

This year's Festival Day event being organised by the Rangiora / Kaiapoi Conferences will be held on the feast day of St Vincent de Paul, Saturday 27 September 2025 starting at 9.30am. The venue is Marian College in Lydia Street, Northcote. The programme of events will be available in August 2025.

• Spring Vinnies Meets Vogue

Vinnies will hold their Spring edition of Vinnies Meets Vogue at our Papanui shop on Saturday 6th September 2025. Donations of good quality clothing and homeware are needed for this event. Donations for Vinnies Vogue can be dropped at any of our three Vinnies shops in Hornby, Papanui and Stanmore Rd.

Selwyn Membership drive

The Selwyn conference is a small Conference that is responsible for a large rural area extending out to Darfield and down to the Rakaia River.

Earlier this year, the decision was made to look at how we could grow our membership. A small committee of three, Clodagh, Theresa and Brigid was formed to look at how we could do this. A decision was made to have one of our members speak at each of the Masses in Lincoln, Rolleston and Darfield. The committee prepared speaker notes so that the same message was given at each Mass. In addition they provided resources for give to anyone interested.

The result was that we have the names of over 20 people who may be interested in joining the Society.

The next step will be an informal coffee get together to get to know these people a little better and understand what prompted them to put their names forward.

This will enable us to look at how we can best match their talents and expectations with the work that is done in Selwyn.



Bill Manning - Conference President

Obituaries

Let us pray for past members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who have died recently.

Margaret Coleman

Margaret served as a Vincentian at the Addington Conference where she held the role of Secretary for well over 20 years. She was the Principal at Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Sumner and later held a role relating to oversight of Principals in Catholic Schools. Sadly, Margaret passed away and her requiem was held in Sacred Heart Church in Addington on 23 April 2025. RIP Margaret.



Brigid Sullivan

Brigid was a Vincentian of the Holy Trinity Conference. Wife to Dick, Brigid was married for over 60 years and was the mother of seven children. She passed away at home in mid-May 2025. RIP Brigid.



Michael Gousmett

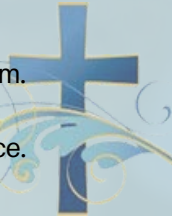
Michael was employed by Vinnies back in 2010-2011 as Manager and based at Stanmore Rd at the time of the Christchurch earthquakes. For years, Michael was, unofficially known as an authority on charities and had made it his mission to reform the sector. He recently passed away after suffering pancreatic cancer. RIP Michael.



For all our fellow Vincentians, who were laid to rest in 2024

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



Blessing - As we go on our way, May God go with us. May he go before us to show the way, Behind us to encourage, beside us to befriend, above to watch over, And within to give us his peace. Amen

Newsletter compiled by Mike Moore and Trish O'Keefe with contributions from, Cyrene Tionko, Bill Manning, Mike Daly.

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

St. Vincent de Paul

