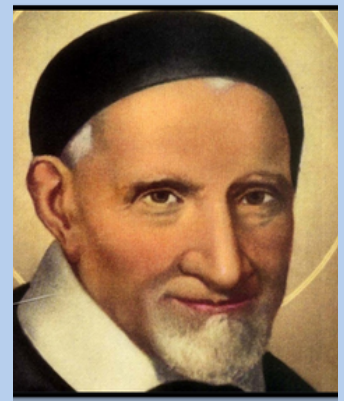




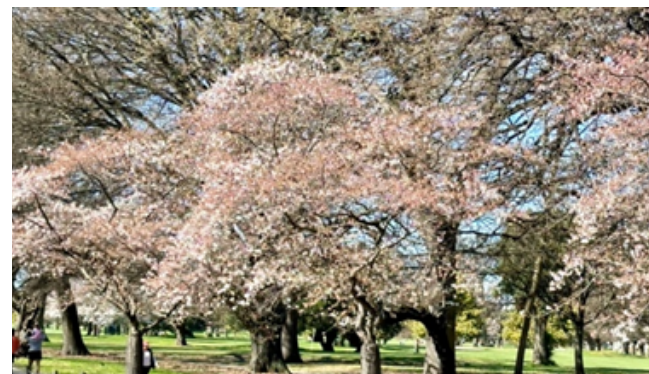
St Vincent de Paul Canterbury Area Council SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



From Mike Moore Canterbury Area President

Dear Vincentians, Volunteers, Friends, Sponsors and Supporters

It is certainly great to see the spring blossoms and the temperatures starting to warm up again – it certainly helps you appreciate the beauty of nature, and it brings joy to so many. But sadly, for many others, life is tough with the increasing costs of living making it difficult to adequately provide for their families or themselves. Up until the end of September 2024, Vinnies has received over 1,000 more requests for assistance compared to this same time two years ago.



As I mentioned last newsletter, we are indebted to our Conference volunteers who visit the families and the elderly who are in need by going to their homes and providing food parcels or assisting them with their other needs. Your continuing care and support are amazing - thank you!

This edition of the newsletter features the amazing turnout for the celebration of St Vincent de Paul Feast Day on 27th September. During the ceremonies, over 25 members were commissioned. Congratulations to all! Other reports outline our new Vinnies Canterbury website, Cyrene reports on the recent activities of our Young Vinnies / Young Adults, Phil Brady outlines the financial counselling services on offer from Vinnies, plus there are updates from the GM's Desk, our Retail Manager (Polly) plus details of some upcoming events and dates for Vincentians to note. To all our supporters who are most generous with their support of Vinnies- a sincere thank you!.

I wish everyone an enjoyable read.

God Bless

Mike Moore
Area President

Prayer to Saint Vincent de Paul

Noble Saint Vincent de Paul,
beloved servant of the poor,
may we follow your example and do good works
among those whom society has abandoned,
enslaved, or forgotten.

Pray for us to our beloved God
that we may commit ourselves selflessly to doing
the same charitable acts that you did all your life.

Amen.



Celebration of Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul

27 September

A large group of Vincentians celebrated the Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul at St Gregory's church on Friday 27th September. Mass was celebrated by Fr Chris Orr who spoke of the inspiring work of St Vincent and that he was the Patron of Charitable Societies. He was born into a poor family in 1580 and after being ordained as a priest, devoted himself to the poor.

Fr Chris explained the five Missionary Virtues – (i) Simplicity – in the lifestyle that one leads & the need to speak a simple Gospel message that people understand; (ii) Humility – emptying oneself of pride, and having an attitude of thankfulness & dependence on God; (iii) Mortification – allowing somethings to die within you in order that those that matter most can flourish; (iv) Meekness – channel our anger so it becomes a positive force for good; (v) Zeal – a longing that people might find life & purpose from relationship with Jesus – it arises through our own conversion.

At the end of Mass, over 25 (mostly) new Vincentians were commissioned with members promising to support and pray for these newly commissioned members. Mike Daly (National Vice President) provided the newly commissioned members with their Vincentian badges.



Long service awards were given to:

Mike Smith (Papanui - 20 years' service)

Shirley Scott (Cathedral - 25 years' service)

John Ruane (West Conference - 25 years' service)

John Reilly (Cathedral - 25 years' service)

Marie McCaskey (Cathedral - 25 years' service)



Marie McCaskey receiving
congratulations
from Fr Chris Orr and Mike Daly
(National Vice - President)



Following the Mass, supper was served, and it was great to see Vincentians enjoying fellowship with other members!



From the General Manager's Desk...

Our operations are busy - there is big demand for furniture, bedding and clothing. The last few months have been constant, and we continue to hear some unfortunate stories of hardship - a sad reality presently. Some of the exciting things happening are a new website, the completion of the staff education program, and finally both Cyrene and myself were commissioned into Vinnies. Thank you to those that help us but to everyone, now is the time that we need your help to put our words into action. At the end of November we will have the Christmas ghetto which will need funding or donations of presents for Children, plus at Christmas, demand will be very significant.

Over the last 12-18 months, Vinnies has provided some training for its staff. With funding sourced from Education Unlimited, Conquest Training providing the facilitation and training all staff went through the sessions in groups over a 10 week period with each session taking 4 hours. Some of the topics covered included Vinnies policies, our culture, Health & Safety, conflict resolution, and technology. Amongst some of the successes were members from the Ashburton team who had joined us on these courses. Of interest, several staff have continued on with their own personal learning journey.

Congratulations to everyone and in particular well done to Teresa and Wayne who have chosen to undertake this extra learning.

Robyn Casey

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Wayne

& Jenna (course facilitator)



Teresa ➡



An update from our Retail Manager

Polly our Retail Manager reports that the last couple of months have been busy for our shops with welfare requests. We have also been working on our volunteer recruitment and send a special welcome to our new volunteers.

We had a successful "Vinnies Meets Vogue" event held at the Papanui branch on 7th September. Over \$5,800 was made in a two-hour shopping exclusive!
An enjoyable event showcasing the best Vinnies has to offer.

Up and coming events for the next couple of months until Christmas include the Villa Maria fashion show where we will have great items for sale, The Book Sale, Vinnies Charity walk and the Christmas showcase event.

With Christmas fast approaching its time to think about the Christmas grotto and donating of presents for families in need.

We welcome Lyndelle as the new Assistant Manager at the Hornby branch. Lyndelle brings a wealth of previous second-hand shop management and an enthusiasm to take Vinnies to weekend markets.

We are available for free collection of furniture and large items and donations can be dropped to any of our three shops or in our clothing bins.



Upcoming Events – to add to your calendar

Vinnies Annual Festival Day – Saturday 19th October

· Vinnies Annual Festival Day being held on Saturday 19th October 2024

This year, our annual Festival Day is being held at Marian College, Lydia Street in Northcote. The day starts with registration commencing from 9.15am with the Welcome starting at 9.50am. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Chris at 10am in the new chapel of the college. Some of the key speakers are:

- Elizabeth Owens from Vinnies Nelson on 'making meetings interesting'
- Luis Arevalo (Manager of Catholic Social Services speaking about Advocacy – it comes in many shapes, plus
- Gerry Stevens, our National President will also address the audience.

There will also be some valuable sessions on Membership, Welfare, Young Vinnies/Adults and the closing session from the Canterbury Area President. Morning tea and lunch will be served with the festival day concluding at 3pm. Registrations are now open and close on Monday 14th October. A registration form is appended to this newsletter!

Villa Maria College Fashion Show – 25th October

· Villa Maria College Fashion Show - on 25th October at the College Auditorium
Young Vinnies is organising a Fashion Show Fundraising Event at Villa Maria College on 25th August. The purpose of this show is to help raise funds for St Vincent de Paul projects heading into the Christmas Season. Tickets (\$25) are on sale and can be obtained by emailing: cyrene@svdpcanterbury.nz



Vinnies needs your Support!

The Society has a Welfare programme that supports both families & individuals needing help given the current high cost of living! Help is provided in a variety of ways that includes food parcels, clothing, furniture & bedding. Please Help us to Help Others.

You can assist the Society in several ways –

- Providing a few hours service each week or each fortnight or monthly
- Donating food or clothing or furniture
- Donating to the Society to aid its good works.
- Drop your donated items into any of our Vinnie Blue Bins: Locations: [Donate Goods](#) (svdpcanterbury.nz)



Who do I contact-

- To volunteer a few hours – email Vinnies - volunteer@svdpcanterbury.nz
- To donate food or clothing / furniture – email Vinnies - admin@svdpcanterbury.nz
- To make a financial donation – scan the QR code opposite and it will take you to Vinnies '[Givealittle](#)' page, or click the link to donate: [St Vincent De Paul, Christchurch City Area - Givealittle](#)



'THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY'

New Membership Drive

The weekend of the Feast of St Vincent de Paul (28-29 September 2024) saw a number of Conferences undertake a membership drive to refresh their membership.

This promotion was undertaken at Cathedral, Beckenham, Addington & Hoon Hay-Halswell plus Papanui, Holy Trinity and Burnside.

Overall, a good number of parishioners indicated an interest in learning more about the work of St Vincent de Paul with 'Information sessions' being held over the following weeks at several locations.

Hoping & praying that this interest turns into new membership!



Vinnies Youth/Young Adults Update-

Term 3 school visits

I had a great response with our lesson regarding 'Laudato Si' and supporting the environment. A few schools have created their very own vegetable and fruit garden with Young Vinnies looking after them. The key take away for our Young Vinnies is not just helping and supporting the poor in our community but also taking practical steps to be involved in protecting and preserving the health of the environment we live in as Young Vinnies.

Term 4 is all about appreciation of the work of the Young Vinnies this year. I'll also focus on the gospel message in 1 Timothy 4:12 "...do not let anyone look down on you because you are young" and challenge them to strive and become "More" which is a reflection from John 10:10 "...I came so that they may have life and have life to full", as Christ intends.

Can Drive and Fundraising Appeals

Can Drive for term 3 generated 3,511 cans collected with an estimated total value of \$10,533. Other schools who participated gave their cans to their respective Conferences directly, among those was St. Bede's College with a massive contribution of 1,400 cans estimating at \$4,200 worth of value.

Christ The King School Young Vinnies held a fundraising raffle and raised \$902 for Young Vinnies. Tegel Chicken have sponsored the prizes with St. Vincent de Paul contributing 3x Warehouse Gift Cards and a box of chocolates.

Villa Maria College Young Vinnies is organising a Fashion Show Fundraising Event to help raise funds for St Vincent de Paul to continue the work we do for the community. This event encourages young people to get involved in advocating and volunteering for a charity. Our aim is to raise more than \$3,000 to fund St Vincent de Paul projects heading into the Christmas Season that will provide food parcels, clothing and Christmas presents for the people we support in our community. We have amazing sponsors who contributed to our main raffle and spot prize draws, with our Conferences chipping in for the 1st Major Raffle prize - Thank you.



Vinnies in Canterbury has a new website

Our new website address is svdpcanterbury.nz

Our purpose for this initiative is to create a website that is readily findable, accessible and useable for clients seeking help. And, very importantly, to be readily findable, accessible, useable, informative and attractive to people who may be wanting to help us - potential volunteers, members, donors of money, donors of food, goods and furniture, writers of wills, philanthropic organisations that consider grant applications. Plus, the site can be more easily and regularly updated

The website contains plenty of opportunities for people to donate currently via the 'Givealittle' donations platform. By late October, we are intending to upgrade this to something more suited to our current needs. In addition, we will continue to add new content such as the annual reports for Canterbury.

As this website is new, there will undoubtedly be a few teething issues. Your feedback is most welcome. Comments should be forwarded to admin@svdpcanterbury.nz or mike@svdpcanterbury.nz.



Society of St Vincent de Paul
CANTERBURY

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Welcome to Vinnies – People helping People

The Society in Canterbury includes Christchurch City, Selwyn District and the communities of Rangiora and Kaiapoi.

[Get help](#) >

[Ways you can help us](#) >

[Become a member or volunteer](#) >

[Donate to make a difference](#) >

Financial Counselling

The Society has been offering its clients this service for approximately five years and our conferences are making clients aware of this service. Generally, a household budget is prepared and advice is offered on year round financial planning and ensuring all income entitlements are being received.

Other household financial burdens, such as debt repayments or arrears of rent/electricity etc can be tackled to ease stresses in dealing with overbearing organisations and institutions. Repayment arrangements can be a solution which relieves anxiety and satisfies the creditor.

More extreme debt solutions involve Kiwisavings Hardship Withdrawals and Insolvency procedures. Both of these solutions are comprehensive, and are not entered into lightly, involving a lot of form filling and complex enquiries.

Over the last year the number of referrals I have received has noticeably increased because of the “cost of living” increases and clients unable to cope with the need to request food and other Welfare assistance. Recently I have been asked to help with Kiwisavings Hardship withdrawals and deal with officious power companies. I also was able to congratulate a young woman who is a recovering drug addict, getting a full time job and is handling her household finances most efficiently. Sadly, while the conferences and members are making referrals many clients will not engage in budgeting. There are a number of reasons why they won’t engage, mainly because of complacency, it’s not a priority, or because they don’t want to disclose their financial position. In some cases because they feel they have an entitlement. Currently ONLY 1 out of 10 referrals will engage.

Conferences now have letters they can use to tag the client Zoho notes that the client is not engaging to receive help with their financial position in an attempt to make the client self sufficient, rather than continually relying on Vinnies Welfare assistance. However, conferences should provide assistance in deserving cases at their absolute discretion.

Phil Brady

Financial Counsellor

Phone 027 32572987 or

Email budgetingservices@svdpcanterbury.nz



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 Robyn Casey, Cyrene Tionko, Polly Fisher and Phil Brady.

**“...TO SERVE THE POOR
IS TO GO TO GOD...”**

St. Vincent de Paul

