



## BUCKETS FOR JESUS NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2023



Dear family, friends and loved ones,

We pray that all is well with you and your loved ones. It has been a while since we last published a newsletter as Buckets For Jesus was impacted heavily by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We were on mission in Manila in early when we first heard about the beginnings of the Coronavirus, and little did we know that it would throw the whole world into chaos, resulting in disruptions to our livelihoods, separation from families and so much uncertainties.

Buckets For Jesus have had to put their ministry days on hold during the lockdowns, and we were unable to travel to the Philippines due to border restrictions. Our mission partners over there were also unable to do any outreaches due to covid restrictions.

As lockdowns eased, we resumed our Saturday ministry days at our now former premises along Cowle Street, which we had to give up due to the end of the lease. This resulted in the final ever Container For Jesus departing from Perth, as we shipped over whatever could not be sold in the op shop. However, the pandemic made customs regulations much more complicated trying to eventually clear this container as it arrived in the Philippines.

The pandemic could not bring our missions to a halt despite us not being able to be physically present in the Philippines, as lo and behold, we were blessed with a new BFJ base in Rivervale which has become like a second home for us. Since October 2020, our missions have continued locally here in Perth as this base is where our ministry days take place, donations are packed and sorted and our Boutique Op Shop attracting numerous walk in visitors who have supported our cause.

As we prayed about how we were going to send donations in kind to the Philippines, we were led to J Cordon Express. This company which provides customers with Door to Door Balikbayan Boxes to the Philippines found out about our cause and even offered us discounts for our charity. We found this as a great opportunity to continue our missions, as we can send the boxes Door to Door directly to all our mission partners all over the Philippines and even opened the doors to send the Schoolbags For Jesus to bless needy children in regions we've never physically been to before.

In this Newsletter, you will read about how we made our presence felt during some of the outreaches that took place during the Pandemic and how the Holy Spirit has kept the missions going. We praise God and cannot thank you enough for your continued prayers and support in cash and kind to keep Buckets For Jesus going.

All our love,  
Mike, Ruby, Michael and the BFJ Team

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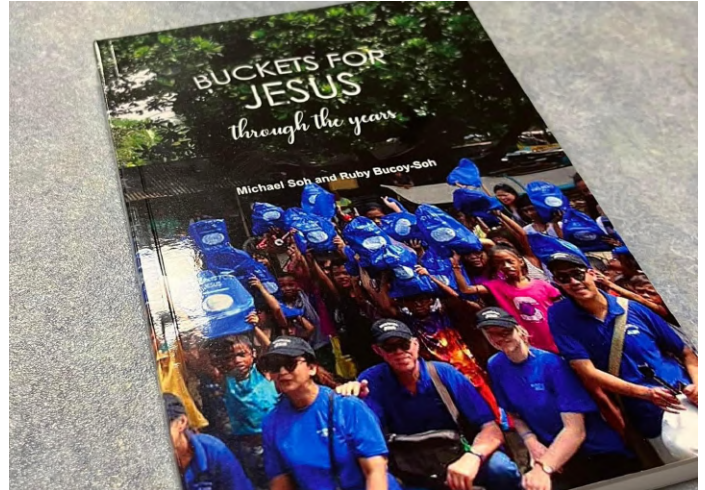
"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."

Isaiah 61:11

## BFJ Book

A 230 page coloured book titled Buckets for Jesus - Through the years, jointly written by Michael Soh and yours truly, capturing 12 years of mission work, was launched in late December right ahead of the sold out Christmas Gala Night fundraiser! God is good!

For years we have visioned to have a book about our mission work, miracles and reflections. Launching this memoir was a truly a silver lining amidst all the trials we are facing today!



This book is dedicated to our late brother and BFJ missionary, Roseller Bucoy, who tragically passed away last November. May he Rest In Peace

All sales proceeds of the book at \$30 per copy will go towards BFJ causes and upcoming outreaches and missions! We still have copies of our book available at our base and online copies will be available soon at \$15. Look out for more updates! We give thanks to God for you and all your love, prayers and support through the years! May God Bless all your hearts! All for His glory, honour and praise!

## BFJ Base, Charity Op Shop and Ministry Days

Since we packed up and closed our Cowle Street base, we were thinking about where our next base would be and lo and behold, we were led to this former gym in Rivervale.

We slowly transformed it into our mission base here in Perth and it's served us very well since October 2020. Our Saturday Ministry Days take place here, as well as the receiving, packing and sorting of donations. BFJ has even hosted functions here.



The annual Schoolbags For Jesus campaign is mainly based here at the BFJ base, where all the contents are put into the bags, quality checked and then packed into the Balikbayan boxes to send to various regions of the Philippines. Various groups of volunteers are rostered on Saturdays to help pack the Schoolbags. Please contact us if you're interested.

The centrepiece of this base is the Boutique Op Shop, which has attracted numerous patrons who found about the sales via advertising on social media as well as the BFJ banner displayed by the main road. The The Murano jewellerys have been very popular for Christmas and birthday presents, while household items, mens and womens' clothing have been selling at a good rate. We look forward to your visit to our BFJ base, whether you're volunteering or checking out our op shop.

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## Photos of BFJ Base and Boutique Op Shop



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## Schoolbags For Jesus 2023

SCHOOLBAGS 2023 is once again here for the 8th year running and we are appealing for your help as you did last year in 2022 where thousands of needy children were blessed last Christmas in the Philippines. May you find in your hearts to help the less fortunate and not to stop loving them. Sponsor a bag for just \$5 to fill them up with school supplies, story books and toys or donate in kind school supplies or sponsor a shipping box for \$120 (special rate from JCordon John Cordon Perth.) May God Bless your hearts and multiply your gifts!

Thanks be to God for all your loving faithfulness in helping thousands of needy children in the planet get their yearly Schoolbags with school supplies which otherwise they cannot afford. We have started packing bags since late March and we need your help.

Every small gift goes a long way for these children from the Philippines and nearby countries. We know it will be a challenge to fill these bags yearly but we trust in your kind hearts and the Lord's divine providence and for His will be done ongoing for 12 years now.

Please help us in a small or big way by donating your time to pack them or any donations in kind will be appreciated. Better still sponsor a Schoolbags or shipping boxes or even an actual outreach to support this worthy cause. If you feel compelled to help, contact us at Buckets For Jesus.

### JCordon Express

THANKS BE TO GOD for your kindness, Elim Christine Moreno of John Cordon Perth, for your amazing support in assisting Buckets for Jesus ship Balikbayan boxes of Schoolbags since 2021 at specially discounted rates. Likewise for helping to ship 15 boxes last year for typhoon Odette victims relief help also at special rates which arrived safely as two more typhoons struck the Philippines that week!

We couldn't have done this without your help together with our kind schoolbags supplies donors and shipping sponsors at John Cordon's special shipping rates

"The greatest giver is the silent one who does not expect anything back!" RSB/BFJ

"The generous soul will be made rich." Proverbs 11:25



## 2023 APPEAL FOR SPONSOR A SCHOOLBAG

A CHARITY PROJECT BY BUCKETS FOR JESUS

Now in its eighth year, Schoolbags (previously Shoeboxes) For Jesus aims to enable children in the Philippines, Kenya, Vietnam, Myanmar and India to receive an education and break the cycle of poverty.

Each bag will have various school supplies so that each child will be able to go to school for the year.

Buckets For Jesus (BFJ) firmly believe in "not just providing the fish, but teaching the people how to fish for themselves". We firmly believe that education is the surest way to not only empower individuals but also raise their families out of poverty.

The 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 and 2022 Schoolbags For Jesus projects were a major success, as over 20,000 children were blessed with school supplies for a year thanks to the generosity of schools, parishes, youth groups, organizations and individuals.

Apart from blessing thousands of needy children from the Philippines, we started sending Schoolbags to orphanages in Kenya, Vietnam and Myanmar, and this year, we plan to start sending to India.

Bucket For Jesus is a not for profit mission body who personally visit and distribute 'buckets' or gifts containing basic necessities such as food, clothes, hygiene supplies, education and spiritual material to the poorest of the poor in the Philippines.

For more information, please visit [www.bucketsforjesus.org](http://www.bucketsforjesus.org)

### DRAWSTRING BAG PROVIDED WHAT IS NEEDED:

2 x 48 PAGE NOTEBOOKS  
SET OF CRAYONS OR COLOURED PENCILS  
2 x PENCILS  
1 x SHARPENER  
1 x ERASER  
2 x BLACK PENS  
2 x BLUE PENS  
1 x KIDS STORY BOOK OR SUDOKU OR CROSSWORD PUZZLE  
1 x SMALL TOY  
1 x SHIRT AND/OR CAP

### COLLECTION TILL

30 August 2023

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## BFJ features in The Philippine Times!

PTL! BUCKETS FOR JESUS was featured this month in The Philippine Times kindly written by Cielo Franklin. Below is the full text of the article. Glory to God!

### BUCKETFUL OF BLESSINGS FOR MARGINALISED FILIPINOS

BFJ IS short for Buckets for Jesus, a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to help uplift the plight of the poorest of the poor in the Philippines.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Ruby Soh, the founder of Buckets for Jesus. She is one of the Filipinos who serve genuinely out of the goodness of her heart.

BFJ started after Ruby received a vision one morning in 2009 where she saw a sea of buckets filled with basic necessities like food, clothes, Bibles and rosaries and was told to take them to the poorest of the poor in the Philippines for a start and to the ends of the earth.

Over the years, Ruby considers their first mission as the most challenging which was a journey to the unknown and they feared for their safety as they were instructed to go the slums and help the poor.

But that's when they also learned the most valuable lesson when doing God's work or mission as 'He will go ahead of us and make the path straight'. God has intervened whenever a miracle is needed and these were documented in their book. Ruby shares, "The Word given to us was from Isaiah 41:10 'Do not be afraid...'"

They have limited copies left of the first edition of BFJ's book, for which they are appealing support to print the second edition. The book can be purchased from BFJ base (39b Great Eastern Hwy, Rivervale WA 6103) or by email [bucketsforjesus@gmail.com](mailto:bucketsforjesus@gmail.com).

After 13 years of operation, their goal is to reach out to more countries apart from the Philippines, and explore Vietnam and China. They also hope to do missions in Kenya and India in the near future.

They also plan to replicate the Yolanda Village housing for disaster victims in Bogo, Cebu under the "Adopt A Family" appeal and build another village for another 100 homes in Negros Oriental.

They have been operating based on God's provision for 13 years through the kind response of people who have faith to help their mission work. Anyone can help by prayers, financial support or by volunteering.

Finally, Ruby would like to say to the generation of today, "Be the change. If you wish to change the world, let it start with you."

For more information visit <https://www.bucketsforjesus.org/>

### Bucketful of blessings for marginalised Filipinos

**Life Events**  
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## Schoolbags For Jesus reach the Ifugao region

After a long spell of rainy season, our mission partners from Banaue, Ifugao made the brave move to reach out to remotest places in the province on foot for 7 hours and called it "A walk for the future" aim to help the needy pupils in remote areas in the province of Ifugao!

Beneficiaries; the GUITTE/PATPAT PRIMARY SCHOOL combined, Ducligan Ifugao is the farthest and most difficult place to reach. Thanks to BFJ -Ifugao Chapter Outreach Program organised by K P Ordillo, Kim Buccahan, Innin Inyus, Jace DM, Ranie Ra Nie and team, the entire community for the successful outreach! We're so blessed by your perseverance!



Special thanks to all amazing team members(BFJIC); joint personnel/or assist by; Dos Ifugao Pmfc & Banaue Mps, youth of Banaue organization and Barangay official, and a warm welcome of the Principal, Parents and teachers, helped in the transportation & delivering of basics needs & school supplies for the pupils during the conduct of outreach activity; these update was 3 out a total of 5 mission outreaches in Ifugao.

We are speechless and still in awe of all your unwavering support for our schoolbags very year! Without your dedicated help, we will not be able to fill up 5000 bags with school supplies, story books and shirts or caps to bless thousands of poor children who cannot afford to buy supplies school next term!

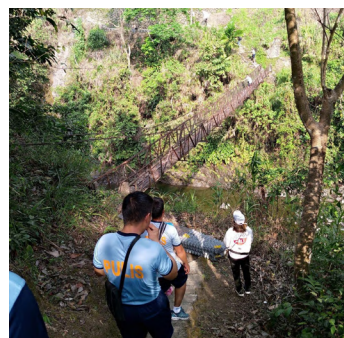
Grateful as always to our BFJ team and volunteers, donors, shipping sponsors and coordinators who lovingly packed, sort and ship them from Singapore and Australia to reach out to the unreachable and to every area where our ministry partners sends them.

We still need more support if you feel compelled in your heart to donate online to help us feed our street kids with some snacks and buy them Bibles too. Let us know if you wish to give back to the Lord.

Special thanks to LBC and JCordon Express for all your help in ensuring our charity boxes reached our the children in all the destinations! Blessings to you and your loved ones!

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." Proverbs 3:27

Photo credit: BFJIC Ifugao Mission Team



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## Schoolbags For Jesus Reach Payatas Villages

Nearly 200 children from the slums of Payatas, Quezon City where the poorest of the poor live were each blessed with Schoolbags from your loving hearts!

We give and glory and thanks to God to our mission partners, Pusong Ama Foundation Inc led by Fr Paul Uwemedimo, MGL and his awesome team of volunteers to help bless the poorest of the poor on behalf of Buckets for Jesus. This ministry has been ongoing for 12 years now and each year, we are in awe on how the Lord moved many hearts to give to the poor.

With much gratitude to God we give praise for all our sponsors, benefactors and helping hands from Australia and Singapore for your generosity as you sacrificed your time and resources to lend a hand to this worthy cause... your love, prayers and support inspire us to press on. Because you cared, the poorest of children in this part of the planet are blessed every Christmas! May your gifts multiply, overflow and run over! Psalm 23:5 Bless your hearts!



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## Missions and Multiplications still go on despite Pandemic restrictions

Locked down or not, the BFJ missions presses on to lend a hand and bring cheer with our Schoolbags to our destitute street children in the slums from the rural areas of Mabinay, Negros Oriental to Dapitan, Zamboanga Del Norte.

Thanks be to God for our BFJ team Rita Wit Bucoy, Adelfa Zamoras and many more willing hearts on the ground, please bless them Lord!

Thanks be to God for the generous hearts who helped BFJ with this amazing project each year and fill up thousands of Schoolbags from Western Australia and Singapore, specially Ken and Florence Liang of Universal Seafood!

These anointed bags has reached the shores of Myanmar, Vietnam and a Kenya, apart from many islands in the Philippines! May the Lord enable many more to serve the poor despite this pandemic times. Anyone can help fill up our bags for just the cost of a cup of coffee by contacting us. God bless all your hearts and may He multiply your donations!



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## Bacong Outreach in memory of the late Roseller Bucoy

SCHOOLBAGS 2022 IN BACONG, DUMAGUETE CITY coupled with a double celebration of our late missionary, Roseller Bucoy's birthday on December 27, 2022. Traditionally celebrated with a mission outreach but due to his untimely death last month, this mission was dedicated in his memory and reached out to 150 slum children! This brought cheer to the children and they were given a special treat, a birthday afternoon tea plus ice cream! Families, volunteers and friends joined the mission to celebrate his first birthday in the heavens and also bless needy children in the slums and mothers received Bibles and Rosaries for those who are in the Catholic faith.



Thank you for the Schoolbags with gifts...maybe the only ones they'll get this Christmas season...made possible because all of you cared months ahead before last Christmas! We are in awe with gratitude to God for your unwavering support for our schoolbags' cause for without your help...we will not be able to fill up thousands of bags with school supplies, story books and shirts or caps and bless thousands of poor children who cannot afford to buy supplies school each term and end up on the streets!

Grateful as always to our BFJ team and volunteers, donors, shipping sponsors and coordinators who lovingly packed, sort and ship them from Singapore and Australia to reach out to the unreachable and to every area where our ministry partners sends them.

We still need more support if you feel compelled in your heart, just pm us how to donate online to help us feed our street kids with some snacks and buy them Bibles too. Let us know if you wish to give back to the Lord. Special thanks to LBC and JCordon Express for all your help in ensuring our charity boxes reached our the children in most of the destinations before Christmas!

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." Proverbs 3:27

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Galatians 5:6



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## Schoolbags For Jesus reach Davao in time for Christmas

One of the first boxes delivered by our courier ahead of Christmas successfully arrived in Davao and finally the outreach mission was organised and the bags were distributed with a note: "Thank you Buckets for Jesus for sharing school bags with this wonderful kids here at purok 6A1 Los Amigos Davao City. Distribution and was successful despite of heavy rain!"

Special thanks to our mission partners Sheng Jayme, Kim Dalisay Jayme, family and friends who braved the rain to bless needy children in the vicinity in memory of BFJ missionary Rosela Bosubre who was called home by the Lord 2 years ago. More than one hundred Schoolbags were shipped to Davao to reach out to street children in the slum area and uplift them during each season of giving. The bags with school supplies, story books and shirts or caps will help them go back to school in the next term. Thanks again to our BFJ Team, to all the volunteers, donors, shipping sponsors and coordinators who lovingly packed, sort and ship them from Singapore and Australia to reach out to the unreachable and to every area where our ministry partners sends them at Christmas.



We still need support if you feel compelled in your heart to donate online to help us feed these street kids with some snacks and buy them Bibles too. Let us know if you wish to give back to the Lord. Big thanks to our shipper LBC based in Singapore for working hard to make sure our boxes reach their destinations before Christmas!

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it." Proverbs 3:27



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## Batangas street children are blessed with Schoolbags

Some 100 bags were lovingly distributed there by our mission partner (including Laguna ongoing) from the beginnings of Buckets for Jesus...by no other than Fr Jose "Jojo" Aguas SJ who has become a missionary but used to be the parish priest of San Bartolome located in San Agustin, Malabon parish.

We give thanks to God for Fr Jojo Aguas and his relentless efforts to help the needy in his parish community, Batangas, Laguna and many places in the Philippines including Bacolod where he was ordained. We still recall during our first year of mission in 2010, when he dared us to enter the Malabon Prison which was a massive eye opener for us on the inhumane plight of inmates who pile up like sardines in one cell! That was the beginning of our prison ministry...



On the next page is the outreach and Schoolbags distributions in Bohol, who's boxes were delayed due to areas affected by the recent typhoon. Please continue to pray for the victims of typhoon Odette, countless have been displaced with lack of proper food, water, sanitation and no power one month later!

Praise God, thousands of needy children were blessed since Christmas because you cared...these children pray that you will not get tired of loving them! God bless all your generosity and may He keep you safe and abundantly blessed!



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## Schoolbags For Jesus reach remote areas of Bohol

Christmas is about giving back to God and we give thanks for enabling us to bless 200 needy children in Bohol just two days before Christmas! A massive thank you to BFJ's mission partner led by John Eric Sese, coordinated by Chairman Teofilo Palotilic with the kind assistance of their tireless leg-man Rustico Sombilon & dedicated teachers of Valeriano Segura Memorial Elementary School & School Principal, Mrs Victoria Ejoc, Perla Bonghanoy & Marcela Torres of Finca de Gabriela. And special thanks to Benito Macrohon for the provision of snacks & drinks! It was a wonderful & successful mission outreach collaboration.



We are speechless and still in awe of all your unwavering support for our schoolbags very year! Without your dedicates help, we will not be able to fill up 5000 bags with school supplies, story books and shirts or caps to bless thousands of poor children who cannot afford to buy supplies school next term!

Grateful as always to our BFJ team and volunteers, donors, shipping sponsors and coordinators who lovingly packed, sort and ship them from Singapore and Australia to reach out to the unreachable and to every area where our ministry partners sends them.

We still need more support if you feel compelled in your heart to donate online to help us feed our street kids with some snacks and buy them Bibles too. Let us know if you wish to give back to the Lord.

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## YWAM helps BFJ bless Cebu street children with Schoolbags

CEBU MISSIONS WITH LOVE! Schoolbags missions continue into 2023 as the boxes we shipped arrived later to our mission partners, Joel and Lucille Hapa and team from YWAM Cebu located at Talisay, Cebu but still managed to bless close to 800 street children who were cheered up in the last 7 days in San Isidro, Tanke 3, Garden, Aromahan, Talisay and Pardo districts of Cebu.

These street children were the original kids who inspired us to start Schoolbags missions 12 years ago! Some of them have risen to the occasion and have become professionals and missionaries of YWAM as well. How great is our God!



Once again, we give thanks to all of you for responding to our appeal and for being a part of our Schoolbags' cause...these gifts maybe the only ones these kids will have this Christmas season...made possible because all of you cared months ahead before Christmas!

We are in awe with gratitude to God for your unwavering support for our schoolbags' cause for without your help...we will not be able to fill up thousands of bags with school supplies, story books and shirts or caps and bless thousands of poor children who cannot afford to buy supplies school each term and end up on the streets!

Grateful as always to our BFJ team and volunteers, donors, shipping sponsors and coordinators who lovingly packed, sort and ship them from Singapore and Australia to reach out to the unreachable and to every area where our ministry partners sends them.

Special thanks to LBC from Singapore and JCordon Express from Perth WA for all your help in ensuring our charity boxes reached our the children in most of the destinations this Christmas season!

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." Proverbs 3:27

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Galatians 5:6



BUCKETS FOR  
JESUS

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"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."

Isaiah 61:11

## Housing For Jesus Phase 3

HFJ's low-cost housing is in our bucket list for our homeless brethren's ongoing project: Housing for Jesus Phase 3. In the light of recent and ongoing earthquakes and volcano eruption in the Philippines, please consider leaving a lasting legacy behind by adopting or co-adopt a homeless family and put a roof above their heads for just 3k and be rewarded by handing the keys of your donated house to your eternally grateful adopted family.



In Australia, receive a tax exempt receipt by donating through World Relief Australia who adopted our housing project with livelihood programs. Read more about it using this link: <https://wra.org.au/1818livelihoods>

Watch a video on Phase 1 and 2 in this link below the page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7pXxXsxe70>

## Saturdays at BFJ Base

As the donations start flowing in again and the packing of our Schoolbags well and truly underway, our Saturday Ministry Days and BFJ Boutique Op Shop at our BFJ Base are in full swing, including packing of donations and Schoolbags For Jesus!

If you cannot travel to the Philippines for the missions, at least you be a part of the missions here in Perth by helping pack the donations that the poor will be receiving.

We are grateful for all our volunteers past and present, and we look forward to your continued support. Please do but hesitate to contact us if you would like to help.



## Upcoming BFJ Fundraiser Events

Once the Schoolbags have been shipped, we look forward to the opportunity to hold fundraiser events to raise funds and awareness for the poorest of the poor in the Philippines.

Some of the upcoming fundraisers being planned are:

- Italian Night Fundraiser at Birraz Ristobar
- High Teas at BFJ Boutique Op Shop
- Christmas Gala Dinner and Dance

Keep your eye on our social media and website for updates.



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