



*A Catholic Parish of
The Archdiocese of Wellington*

To Tatou Wahine O Nga Whanga Parahi Katorika

OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

MOTUEKA • RICHMOND • TAKAKA • WAIMEA WEST • WAKEFIELD

2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT

An overview from Fr Seph

The past year has been very positive. The good work and effort in relationship building through the amalgamation process has now bedded itself further within each of the communities and their leadership groups. Each of the communities seem strong in their own sense of identity and equally conscious of the other communities as one parish. This emergent sense of identity is showing itself in the vibrancy of parishioners as they celebrate the sacraments and involve themselves in various aspects of pastoral ministry as they care for their community's wellbeing. A renewal of membership of the PPC and PFC with clear terms of reference and meeting structure is now also showing its value in effective communication and direction setting.

In this context, a comprehensive Pastoral Plan was developed in which considerable effort was put into consulting each community. The objectives of the pastoral plan were based on the feedback received during the consultation. This plan is now an integral aspect of leadership meetings and forms the basis from which new initiatives will further galvanise parish spirit into the future. In this way, the year ahead also looks positive. Based on the results of the strategic direction taken so far, I believe further growth of parish spirit can expect to be seen in additional pastoral initiatives and interpersonal/intercommunity engagement.

The prospect of completing the Cardinal's property review will cast into sharper relief some of the deep seated, and long-term issues all parishes now face within the Archdiocese. However, the parish wide engagement and strategic planning developed so far has socialised many of these issues within parish communities and will likely compliment a growing resilience and capacity to face the issues with pragmatism and creativity.

Report from Parish Pastoral Council

With effect from December 2018 a newly formed Parish Pastoral Council took over from the transitional Council which had guided the Parish through amalgamation. The current PPC has a representative from each of the five communities which make up our new Parish of Our Lady of the Bays.

Terms of Reference for the PPC have been written and are now in place and the Parish Pastoral Plan has been implemented in all communities. The role of the PPC is to ensure that this Plan has a continued focus in each of the communities. To assist with this, each community has its own Leadership Team which focuses on how the items within the Plan can be best put into place for their particular needs.

The PPC is closely linked to the PFC and joint meetings of both committees are being held.

Report from Parish Finance Committee

At the end of our financial year we ended up with a surplus from our draft accounts, which is very positive. A big thank you to all who donated generously to our parish.

This surplus was due to some maintenance projects not being done and some of the larger maintenance items may remain on hold while we carry out the Parish wide review as directed by the Cardinal.

It is noted that in the past year about a third of our income came from sources other than our planned giving programme, (Trust and rental property, etc.)

Quoting the Cardinal's letter of 15th February, "As a fundamental principle, each generation should aim to pay its way in the parish and put aside adequate reserves through it's giving, without relying on investments (e.g. in rental property) by previous generations or selling assets to meet operating costs".

For Our Lady of the Bays parish, this principle would indicate an approx. 50% increase in our giving is required. Something to ponder and a challenge for sure!

Report on Pastoral Plan Implementation

The tasks which were to have been substantially commenced or completed by 31 March 2019, and current progress, is as follows:

	Task	Progress
1:2:i)	A discussion/workshop on reconciliation to encourage more participation	<p>Motueka: Done after Mass and good discussion.</p> <p>Wakefield: Discussion at leadership group level focussed on desire to have more regular access prior to Mass on Sunday – even on a monthly basis. Thought around incorporating this sacrament around the already gathered “captive audience”.</p> <p>Richmond: The Richmond church ran a thoughtful 5-part discourse on the elements of reconciliation over successive Sundays. This was well received.</p> <p>Takaka: Not done except briefly by Fr Andrew in a recent homily.</p>
1:3:i)	Leadership/Liturgy Groups to identify what prayer, rosary, meditation, Stations of the Cross, retreats and adoration they already have and what they want in the future and the time frame for achieving this	<p>Motueka: Prayer and meditation groups already in place. Stations of the Cross held every Friday in Lent, Family groups to be set up in May.</p> <p>Wakefield: Stations of the cross held through Lent at Wakefield. Rosary being said prior to Mass on Sundays (7.40am – led by Sam.)</p> <p>Richmond: The Church's liturgy is full leading to Easter (21 March) and has included aspects of the task. Post Easter an overview of existing and desired worship will be undertaken, and needs implemented.</p> <p>Takaka: Prayer Workshop (4 hours) led by Karen Moynagh in March 2019 - attended by 16 including 8 from other faiths. Good feedback from all participants. Follow-up workshop May 25. Rosary in our church Feb 8.</p>
1:5:i)	Set up a series of regular discussions/study groups to support our Spirituality of Service. Topic to cover aspects of the Catholic Church, our faith and other faiths	Still being developed.
2:4:i)	Support and expand the Family Group movement in the Parish	The PFG Groups centred at Richmond are active and are being well supported. Planning has commenced on setting up Groups centred around St Peter Chanel, Motueka.

	Task	Progress
3:2:ii)	Offer to help other local churches with events they are running, a clean-up or a working bee	<p>Motueka: Nothing yet.</p> <p>Wakefield: No approaches made yet. However, we are beginning to prepare for 150th anniversary of opening of our church (7th May 1870) and will be connecting with them in the near future.</p> <p>Richmond: The parish is represented at regular meetings of Ministers of Christian churches and has joined in selected ecumenical services.</p> <p>Takaka: Some members participated in public church gatherings over Easter: The Way of the Cross on Good Friday and a stall at the market Easter Saturday which had info and activities re Easter and gave out free hot x buns. Hosted World Day of Prayer in our church in March – ecumenically arranged and led.</p> <p>Members participated in Peace vigil at Village Green following Christchurch shooting.</p>
4:3:i)	All parishioners are to actively reduce and reuse. Weekly reminders and hints in Newsletter	<p>ACHIEVED. Laudato Si' hints are being included in the weekly bulletin. Compost bin has been provided at Richmond Hall. Used votive candles at Richmond are being 100% recycled.</p>
5:1:i)	The amalgamated Parish is to develop a robust governance structure that is based on a detailed Terms of Reference (TOR)	<p>COMPLETED. Terms of Reference adopted and implemented.</p>
5:2:i)	Parish finances to be transparent and understandable with regular updates in Newsletter	<p>COMPLETED. Financial Summary Published each month along with commentary from PFC Chair.</p>
5:2:ii)	Implement an offering increase initiative on an annual basis	<p>Delayed due to timing and manpower available within the parish and our comfort level of the third-party fundraising plan. Revisit.</p>
5:2:v)	Make Parish facilities more obviously available for hire	<p>Aiming to publish a list by the end of June 2019.</p>
5:2:vii)	Develop, promulgate and regularly update a list of suggested donations for funeral, wedding etc as well as cemetery plot cost	<p>Aiming to publish a list by the end of June 2019.</p>