



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

## Parish Pastoral Plan

14 November 2021

### OVERVIEW

Our first Pastoral Plan was prepared in 2018 with several improvements proposed to our governance and faith involvement. Many of these have been completed and are now considered to be part of our “Business as Usual” (BAU). Some of these will be reported in our Annual Reporting. Therefore, this document proposes to incorporate and record our BAU i.e., what we currently do.

#### Pastoral Plan review

The Pastoral Plan formulated in 2018 included the intention of having a Review of the Pastoral Plan at the end of 2019. However due to the constantly changing landscape caused by the looming shortage of Priests and the need for all Parishes to review all their property, this review was delayed. Further delay was caused by Covid. Although our future is not yet clear, we have completed this Plan for direction until our future becomes clearer.

#### The Future

The property review resulted in a suggestion that our Parish amalgamate with our neighbouring Holy Family Parish based in Nelson. This process is currently on hold but would start by identifying the real needs of the Parishes and what can be attained with and without the ownership of buildings. As part of this process, we will also investigate the reality of future proofing by building a new multipurpose, centrally located church and catholic centre for both parishes and identify synergies with Garin College.

Until we return to amalgamation discussions, our Parish will continue to carry out the works and activities as detailed in this Plan plus the specific items that have been identified.

### WHO WE ARE

**Our Parish is** a worshipping community fostering spirituality and supporting each other in our spiritual and daily lives. We are guided by and support our Priests who are an inspiration to us, as well as parishioners who give freely of their time and talents to support our faith.

This has a number of facets including:

- Mission
- Providing Spiritual Sustenance
- Nourishing a sense of belonging/caring for each other and our Planet
- Having good Governance and management of our assets.

## WHAT WE DO

### Provide the Sacraments

- Communion at Masses: We provide 5 Sunday Masses a week in 4 Churches and an additional Mass once a month in Waimea West. Most of these Masses have music as part of the liturgy. There are 4 weekday Masses said throughout the Parish (2 in Richmond and 2 in Motueka). The official average Sunday Mass count for all 5 communities is 404. We have more parishioners on our community list who attend irregularly.
- Communion is brought to the house bound Parishioners on Sundays and during the week according to needs.
- Reconciliation Is available after weekday masses or by appointment. Rite 2 services are occasionally held in Advent/Lent or in conjunction with Sacramental Programme.
- Baptisms are arranged as required. Baptism during Sunday Mass is encouraged.
- Anointing of the sick is provided as required for individuals.
- Weddings and funerals are arranged as requested.
- Confirmation is administered as part of the Sacramental Programme.

To support the sacraments and other activities each Church has rosters of parishioners for ministries & tasks.

#### **We will also ...**

- *Continue to make our Masses and Services appealing to a wider number of parishioners and residents.*
- *Organise an Annual Healing Mass/Service in each of our major church communities.*
- *Refresh and update consistent Eucharistic Minister training and Service of Word training throughout the Parish.*
- *Continue /reinstate distributing communion to the sick as needed.*

### Nurturing our Faith

- The Parish provides opportunities for the community to nurture their faith and belief.
- For adults we provide weekly meditation groups, Eucharistic adoration (Richmond, Motueka) Rosary twice a week in Richmond, the Richmond Prayer groups (Mothers Prayer Group and a Prayer Chain), Dove Group, Meditation, Stations of the Cross and retreats.
- There are also regular discussions/study groups to support our Spirituality of Service which are held as the opportunities and interest dictate. Topics cover aspects of the Catholic Church, our faith and other faiths and environmental issues.
- For our younger parishioners we provide Children's liturgy instruction on a weekly basis during school term.
- There are also ongoing Sacramental Programmes which lead to First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation.

#### **We will also ...**

- *Explore opportunities to start a faith discussion/fellowship group in each community.*
- *Host an Annual Mass emphasising different cultures in our church community. e.g. a Filipino and/or Samoan Mass.*
- *Organise a Day retreat for all parishioners in the 2022 year.*

- *Refresh our Rosters after the next "Gifting Sunday"*

## Mission/Ecumenical

As part of our missionary/evangelising, we are called to be active in our communities. We do this by:

- Parishioners are involved in a wide range of voluntary activities in our wider community.
- The relationship between the schools and Parish is coming closer with parishioners more involved with events.
- We have representation on the Richmond and Waimea Ministers Association
- We have an Annual combined service of Commitment for the Richmond Waimea Christian communities.
- We participate in an annual ecumenical Ash Wednesday service with Richmond Holy Trinity Anglican.
- We have a presence on the Ecumenical Spiritual Growth Ministries for Contemplative Prayer and attendance at "Days Aside".
- We are involved with the Ecumenical Annual World Day of Prayer.
- The Parish is on the roster to provide the "Just a Thought" in the Waimea Weekly.

### **We will also ...**

- *Participate in local Annual World Day of Prayer and the World Day of Prayers for Peace.*
- *Advertise and encourage parishioners to attend ecumenical events in the area and to join in community groups e.g. St Vincent de Paul and Meals on Wheels.*
- *Continue offering Parishioner's "Talks" on current topics as the opportunities arise.*

## Building our sense of Community

An important aspect of our faith is to grow the sense of community and belonging that is imperative to each of us. To grow this, we carry out a variety of activities including:

- Weekly newsletters are prepared and sent electronically to all parishioners on the database. Paper copies are provided for visitors and those without email.
- We support and encourage Passionist Family Groups in the Parish. We already have a total of 7 groups and approximately 200 members meeting regularly for social get togethers.
- We have instigated and continue to develop support for young families through the Sacramental Programme with regular Family Masses with hospitality and entertainment.
- Hospitality is provided after Sunday Masses across our churches, some on a weekly basis once a month and on special occasions.
- Priests visit each of the 3 schools on a weekly basis.
- Parishioners deliver communion/visit the homebound weekly.
- We have an informal Grief/Loss/Bereavement Ministry in conjunction with St Vincent de Paul for those experiencing loss, older age, transitions to aged facilities, illness, death, grief etc.
- Monthly social "coffee club" gatherings for those who desire company.
- Our Parish has a close association with St Vincent de Paul due to the number of parishioners who volunteer for that organisation.
- We endeavour to have an annual Parish wide, OLOB Parish Picnic or function.
- To keep parishioners engaged we have a regular (as required) "Gifting Sunday" when volunteers are identified for tasks including ministries, committees, groups, working bees, specific tasks, PFG, community gardens and wider community activities.

**We will also ....**

- *Encourage all church communities to contribute more to the Parish newsletter.*
- *Investigate the possibility of setting up more Passionist Family Groups.*

**Caring for Creation/Sustainability**

- The Parish is very aware of the need to look after our common home and make efforts to encouraged parishioners to actively reduce and reuse. There are regular reminders and hints included in the weekly Newsletter. Teams have been established to care for gardens in each community including the orchard at Motueka.
- We will continue to reduce our rubbish. Currently we recycle paper, plastic, votive candles (some) food waste (some) and interweave Laudato Si' principles into all Parish activities.
- We are also taking advantage of technology to reduce our running and maintenance costs. The latest initiative has been to replace the lights in the Richmond Hall with LED lighting.

**We will also ....**

- *Encourage parishioners to clean up their local area, beach, etc of rubbish.*
- *Encourage parishioners to share surplus garden produce at Sunday Mass.*
- *Encourage the re-reading of recent publications by leaving them in Foyers for borrowing.*

**Governance**

- The Parish has a functioning governance structure that is based around a Parish Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council. Each of these groups has a robust detailed Terms of Reference. We will continue to fulfil all our legal and administrative requirements, support all our Committees, manage our budgets and upkeep our facilities as finances allow.

**We will also ...**

- *Improve the Parish database to; support good communication, support our communities spiritually and physically and for emergency situations.*
- *Ensure our Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and Community Leadership Groups continue to support our communities.*

**Property and Finance**

- Our current building ownership consists of five church buildings, three halls (Richmond, Motueka and Takaka), 2 Presbyteries (Richmond and Motueka) and 3 rental units (Takaka and Motueka).
- Parish finances are transparent and understandable with regular Financial Summaries and commentary in the Parish Newsletter.
- We have a list of suggested donations for funeral, wedding etc as well as cemetery plot cost which is regularly updated.

**We will also ...**

- *Continue working on the creation of a Trust in Takaka*
- *Continue to work toward future proofing our community with technology and education.*
- *Fundraising options will be considered with recommended approaches implemented.*
- *Continue to streamline our financial systems and processes.*