



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

2020/2021 Statement of Service Performance and Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

“Who are we?” “What did we do?” “How did we do it?”

Description of Entity’s Outcomes

Who we are?

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Bays, is called through Baptism to celebrate the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament. We are called and sent by Christ to live with gratefulness the life God has given us and to proclaim the good news of his love in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of faith, service, and community, we strive to bring people closer together and closer to God. We accomplish this through:

- worship and prayer
- contributing to the growth of our parish by spreading the Gospel by word, witness, action and evangelization
- inviting everyone to serve, and in this way meeting the needs of our parishioners and the broader community
- being accountable to God by responsibly sharing our time, talents and gifts
- lending support to the parish leadership and working together to fulfil the mission.

What did we do?

In 2018 the Parish embarked on a process to identify our areas of mission and the means by which we can fulfil the Gospel in our lives and the lives of others. The result was an ambitious Pastoral Plan. To strive to succeed in our mission, changes and improvements to our objectives and support functions were identified. Each of our 5 communities are gradually implementing these changes and projects as time and resources permit. Many of these have been completed and are now incorporated into our “Business as Usual”. Refer to the report on pastoral plan implementation below. An updated Plan will be developed over the next year.

An overview of 2020/2021 from Fr Seph Pijfers: Parish Priest

The past year has been positive with continuing progress in relationship building through the Parish. Our amalgamated Parish has now bedded itself within each of the communities and their leadership groups. Each of the communities is 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.

This past year has been positive with the Covid lockdown having less negative or financial impact than was feared. The Pastoral Plan implementation was impacted by the lockdown and subsequent concerns and the Plan will be reviewed over the coming year to reflect our subsequent priorities. Currently we are consolidating the initiatives implemented over the past few years and we continue to support and encourage a deeper sense of belonging to our community.

The Cardinal's property review was completed and the Cardinal agreed to our proposal to consider exploring the possibility of amalgamating with our neighbouring Holy Family Parish. Work on this phase continues.

Within our Parish we continue to support and explore the growing faith of our parishioners and the ongoing vibrancy of our community.

Report from Parish Pastoral Council

Over the past 12 months there has been significant work undertaken looking at the configuration of our parish going forward. The Parish Pastoral Council has been updated on this work, is offering its full support of, and commitment to, the ongoing needs of parishioners in those communities where changes in pastoral support and care will be needed in the near future.

Report from Parish Finance Committee

Our Lady of the Bays Parish recorded a net operating loss, before depreciation, of \$5,037 which compared to our budgeted operating Loss of \$22,712, was extremely positive. After accounting for depreciation, and recording non-operating income, the net loss for the year was \$8,794, some \$13,918 better than budget.

Overall, our year result was pleasing, in what was a difficult year for many. We were very grateful not only for our parishioners' financial contributions but also for volunteering their time to ensure the smooth running of our parish.

Report on Pastoral Plan Implementation

The activities substantially commenced or completed by 31 March 2021, and current progress, is as follows:

Grief ministry:

We have partially developed a Grief/loss/bereavement ministry to cover loss, older age, transitions to community aged facilities, illness, death, grief etc. We currently have an informal process in conjunction with St Vincent de Paul is working well. On an individual bases our parishioners within the respective churches provide informal support through home visits etc. We are hoping that we can work more closely with our neighbouring Holy Family Parish to progress this further.

Music:

We have facilitated six workshops with interested Parishioners to determine what Music we want at our Sunday Masses and how this is to be achieved. A report is currently being prepared.

Faith education/Discussion:

There have run 4 discussions/study groups to support our Spirituality of Service. These will be ongoing and expanded as opportunities arise. There is also considerable work undertaken through our schools that provide significant faith education.

Young and Youth:

We have provided some appropriate youth activities. The hospitality and activities associated with the monthly family Masses are seen as the possible catalyst for this. Our other churches fundraise and provide input into young people's pastoral education.

Inclusion;

We have developed and are in the process of rolling out a formal "Inclusion" protocol for newly arrived/new parishioners, visitors, regular parishioners and occasional attendees. A formal process has been adopted in Richmond with other churches adopting a locality-based approach wherever possible. This process will also be shared with our other churches as opportunities arise.

To enhance communication within our Parish and the wider community the Newsletter is being electronically disseminated weekly. The Catholic Church is also on the roster to provide the "Just a Thought" in the Waimea Weekly.