



*Catholic Parish of St. Francis & All Souls Devonport*

## **Update from Pastoral Council and Finance Team**

*Sat/Sun 17/18 October 2020*

On behalf of the Parish Council, we want to thank you for your support and patience since our AGM in August. What have we been doing since then?

Our AGM showed the strength of your commitment to our local faith community, our church and our school. This was our guiding principle when we met by Zoom with the members of St Joseph's Takapuna PPC, and we will have another meeting with them in person next month. It's important to say there is a great deal of goodwill from them to the idea of working more closely together. This will be a gradual process, directed by the decisions we make, but also by factors over which we have little control.

### **PASTORAL PLAN**

Your Pastoral Council and Finance-Property teams met for a half-day retreat at the start of August, and out of that came the Draft Pastoral Plan for the next year. After some initial consultation it is being distributed to you in the last section of this document. It's quite brief, deliberately, because it's not about Business as Usual; it's about what we want to do differently in the coming year in order to build a stronger faith community here in Devonport. It has 5 key points:

- Deepening our faith
- Recruiting a resident priest
- Increasing focus on Justice and Peace
- Linking more closely with St Leo's school
- Strengthening financial viability.

The second point, Recruiting a Resident Priest, is probably the most radical. We intend to advertise this very desirable parish as a place where priests can come for a sabbatical – hopefully for around 6 months. We would provide accommodation (our Presbytery) and the usual financial support. Jim Dobbie and I have a meeting next week with Bishop Pat Dunn to canvas the support of him and his brother Bishops, but he has already indicated interest in the idea. The availability of a permanent or resident priests is mostly beyond our control but initiating the idea of visiting Priests is something we can do now. The sabbaticals may not immediately be snapped up, and another resident priest may not be available, so we may have to call on the service of one of the Takapuna priests, and possibly lose one of the weekend Masses. I am positive and pray in hope that we can start strengthening our own capabilities to support our priest next year, wherever he comes from.

We hope that by sharing the Plan with you today, we will encourage your enthusiasm to be on board in some or all of those 5 areas, through sharing your time, talent and treasure. By your strong voices at the AGM, you indicated that you want to retain our identity as a Devonport community of faith. Now, it's time to look at what that commitment means in real terms – time, talent and treasure.

### **FINANCIAL PLAN**

Our Parish has realistic expectations and now some new aspirational pastoral goals, but we are not getting regular donations to support these. We desperately need your help. From September 2019 to September 2020 our income declined by approximately \$10,000, to \$83,022. This is attributable to some extent to Covid19, lockdowns and periods of no Masses (hence no donations in the plate). Fortunately about 70 parishioners donate by automatic bank payment and these have mostly continued during the lockdown periods. The highest regular donation exceeds \$60/week, but 30 of these donations average not more than \$20 per week, some of these are less than \$3 per week. Many automatic payments have not been updated in years.

Our Parish is motivated to ensure we keep our identity and ideally this requires a Priest living in Devonport and a parish secretary (which we have only had for the last 2 years) to provide support. Those costs amount to \$59,000 per year.

We also have a Church, a Presbytery and a Hall to heat, insure and maintain (the normal outgoings of any household). While volunteers help a lot with gardens, cleaning, flowers, accounting, music there are various incidental cost for all these activities. Our 3 buildings and other Parish incidentals account for about \$60,000 per year.

So, our total regular outgoings for the above items amount to \$119,000 per year.

We also have a Wish List of suggestions from Parishioners, the Parish Council, the Priest and Property/Finance Team. These are needed items but are considered discretionary expenditure items as many can be delayed. The Wish List items that have become urgent average about \$16,000 per year. There are many pastoral activities we would like to do that are not on our current Wish List.

15% of our regular donations help support the Auckland Diocese.

In summary, to keep operating as we currently are requiring regular donations of \$159,000 per year or \$3,000 per week. For the 12 months to the end of September your donations average \$1,596 per week.

### **PLANNED GIVING**

We recognise that this is not the best time to be asking for more money, with some households under more financial pressure than usual, and some uncertainty ahead, but we ask you to look again at the amount of your planned donations to our Parish. You might like to consider the amount you spend weekly on discretionary or luxury spending by comparison. We are asking each household to have a fresh look at what they can regularly donate please. Our Parish website has a new page covering planned giving which includes a confidential pledge form to complete. This helps with our budgeting, but you can change your donations at any time as circumstances change.

Please consider donating by automatic payment and this is easy to set up. Refer to the pledge form or contact Corenna at the Parish office.

As cheques are being phased out by banks and cash is less common, the Parish is permanently installing (in November) a Tap and Go device that deducts \$10 from your credit card (but only when you tap it on the device!). There are several Parishes in the Diocese using these devices.

ST FRANCIS AND ALL SOULS PASTORAL PLAN 2020 – 2021

Mission : “What on earth are we doing, for Christ’s sake?”

Goal	Objectives/Action	When	Who
Deepen our faith	Establish a formation team for the wider parish, with the aim of ongoing formation for all, through study of a suitable book, commitment in prayer, and retreat sessions. Utilise existing opportunities for formation such as RCIA and sacramental preparation, prayer and meditation groups, social justice and activity groups to encourage a deeper look at why we do what we do. Liaise with Faith Formation Coordinator at Takapuna Parish to look at combined opportunities and resources.	Beginning at the start of Advent	Stephen, Kath, small group leaders.
	Encourage the building of relationships in the community through “Catholics Unlimited” encounter groups in local cafes and pubs	As soon as Covid levels permit	Fr John, leaders
	Plan 3 wider-community events for 2021, providing the opportunity to know each other better, by sharing faith and ideas.	Beginning February 21	PPC/ Events team
	Publicise and promote the Jubilee Scholarships for theology study to Catholic tertiary students. Liaise with Takapuna Youth Group on combined meeting schedule for the start of next year.	For start of 2021 academic year	Bulletin. Youth Team
Recruit a resident priest	Consult with Bishop around protocols for advertising Devonport as a “Sabbatical Parish” for priests elsewhere in NZ (and Australia?) for periods of 6 months at a time from next year. Develop publicity material and outline of mutual expectations for this.  Consult on possibility of resident priests attending/auditing theology papers. Frame advertisement and publish  Discuss with Mons David Tonks what arrangements may be in the interim when	Oct.2020	Kath

ST FRANCIS AND ALL SOULS PASTORAL PLAN 2020 – 2021 (Continued)

Mission : “What on earth are we doing, for Christ’s sake?”

Goal	Objectives/Action	When	Who
Increase focus on Justice and Peace	Set aside a sum of money annually to support a parish in a poorer part of NZ, after consultation with the Diocese.	As finance allows	PFC – Jim
	Attend Diocesan Mission Map planning session and consider implications for Devonport and Takapuna	Nov.14th	PPC/ general
Link more closely with St Leo’s	Buy suitable Children’s Bibles and provide for each student at St Leo’s at a School Mass.	February 2021	Fr John/ PFC
	Encourage ongoing commitment by a school representative to the PPC through discussion with BOT	Oct/Nov	Kath, BOT
	Appoint a paid part-time school / parish liaison person to ensure the following happens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the partnership between the Parish and school through better communication and expanded opportunities to work together</li> <li>Promoting St Leo’s as the preferred school for Catholic children living in the area</li> <li>Pursuing strategies aimed at roll growth</li> </ul>	As finances allow	PFC, PPC BOT
Financial Viability	Share state of Parish finances and encourage increased pledges of time, talent and treasure, with a goal of increasing annual income so that projects already under way, high-category items on the wish list, and new initiatives can be carried out,  Update parish directory – check on existing 300 households and add any new ones	17-18 October  Oct 2020	Jim, Kath, Fr John.  Corenna

Wishing you all the blessings of Ordinary Time.

Jim Dobbie,  
Chair Property and Finance Team.

Kath Petrie,  
Chair Parish Pastoral Council