

AGM 2020 – Chairperson's Report

I take this opportunity to thank the Parish for the support, encouragement and assistance provided to the leadership team over the last 12 months.

The role of the Leadership Team is to provide governance, leadership and pastoral planning. The team encourages and supports the Ministry Teams involved in pre-sacramental catechesis, adult formation, finance, administration, faith community formation and life, and outreach to the poor and vulnerable. We meet monthly and set priorities and critique and evaluate how the parish is doing in these areas.

The Leadership Team works closely with the Finance Committee. The role of the Finance Committee is to ensure good stewardship is followed in the following areas; income and expenditure, maintenance, forward planning, insurance, budgeting, reporting and compliance.

The Leadership Team also works closely with the Liturgy Committee. The role of the Liturgy Committee is to provide liturgical and musical oversight across the Parish. The Liturgy committee is the contact point for faith communities and they meet regularly to plan for upcoming liturgies.

In addition, the Health, Safety and Wellness Committee provide support in implementing policies relating to health and safety throughout the Parish and the Building Committee provides support and advice to the Leadership Team in all matters of Parish property and maintenance.

It is the focal goal of the Leadership Team, and our auxiliary committees to support all people in our communities to spread the Gospel values as disciples of Jesus.

These past 12 months have been filled with activity and planning for the years ahead. The leadership team this year has deliberated on diverse needs, topics and projects. The members of the leadership team are: Grant Novak; Craig McLean; Norris Lagera; Helen Basile; Roland Devine; Father Vui, Father Simon and Anna Duynhoven our minute taker. Each person on the leadership team has contributed many hours and given thought and prayer to the issues as they arise. Every contribution has been valued. Behind the scenes at the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth there have been many volunteers coordinating, assisting and running Parish activities and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their contribution to Parish life.

I would like to introduce the staff of our parish:

Denise Fleming - Office Manager

The Office Manager's position was introduced to the Parish team in January 2019, to ensure health and safety, employment compliance obligations are met, and property management/maintenance are undertaken as required. Denise supports each team member to succeed in their respective Ministries and Denise co-ordinates parish communications. Denise reports monthly to the leadership team and sits on the Building and Finance Committees.

Denise is a Registered Social Worker with the New Zealand Social Workers Registration Board.

Ireen Crossan - Parish Secretary

Ireen has held the role of Parish Secretary for some time, working originally with Father Tom and the then newly ordained Father Simon, when the Secretary was the only office employee. Ireen is responsible for administration and finance matters in the Parish.

Michelle Butler - Young Families Minister

Michelle's part-time role includes everything related to young families (parents and children up to 12 years old) across the parish. Michelle's primary focus is to develop more connections for families in our Faith community. This has included but is not limited to, coordinating the First Sacraments and the Older Children's Baptism programmes, supporting infant Baptism, children's Liturgy and connecting with our Catholic schools (primary and intermediate).

Hika Perez - Youth Minister

Hika's role is to look after the teenagers of the Catholic community in New Plymouth. Hika caters to their spiritual needs such as sacramental programs, youth sessions, schools' sessions and catch ups with teenagers to enhance their worth and identity, which is as loved children of Christ.

Kate Buchboeck - Office Administrator

Kate's role involves contacting families who have had preference forms signed by the Parish and ensuring new and not-so-new Parishioners feel welcome.

Some of the achievements of the past 12 months:

- Technology at the parish office updated and improved to allow more effective and efficient working including an overhaul and thorough update of the website.
- Paywave introduced to allow giving in a more relevant way.
- Grants applied for and awarded to allow us to undertake various projects in the Parish including the replacement of the chairs at St Joseph's hall.
- Throughout the COVID-19 lockdowns and Alert Level changes we have managed communication and supported parishioners. We have provided options to attend Mass safely, both in person when possible and in different ways when not.
- Introducing the "My Church" parish app.

My Church App

The parish app is Internet based. It is used by Catholic parishes throughout the world and was developed in New Zealand. At least five parishes in Auckland are utilising the app to great effect.

The app is accessed via a smart phone or tablet. The purpose of the app is to provide a central hub connecting you to our Parish.

The key functions of the app are to communicate with parishioners and provide a tool for donations.

The content is administered by the various ministry team and group leaders. You are able to keep up to date with Parish happenings and you can access this information at any time.

All the content you see weekly in the newsletter plus more is available through the app in real time. Content is updated throughout the week.

Information is arranged by ministry, groups, events, and a central calendar keeps track of upcoming events. You can subscribe to areas of interest and receive targeted information on same.

Through the app we have the ability to send alerts covering new information, updates, changes to timetables and events.

One of the main functions of the app is to provide the ability to give in a way that meets people where they are. You can set up your own recurring/planned giving and also use the app for 'one off' or special collections i.e. Mission Sunday today.

Conclusion

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank the Parish for their support, encouragement and assistance. Our role is to provide governance, leadership and pastoral planning not only for today but to meet the needs of our Parish in the future. We welcome your input and support and look forward to the challenges and the successes of the year ahead.

Benita Murray

18 October 2020