**Annual General Meeting (AGM) report from the Leadership Team as at 19 June 2022**

A Leadership Team composed of novices met for the first time on 7 April this year. Members are: Paul Bouterey, Albert Chow, Mary-Elizabeth Hagenson, Jude Hau, Fr Vui Hoang, Kevin Kerr, Alex McDougall, Marg Mora, John Passmore, Fr Simon Story and me. This report is composed in regard to the current situation in the parish and plans for its future. Gratitude is expressed here for the service of previous Chairperson Grant Novak and the work carried out under his team.

The *Vision Statement* for the our parish reads – *The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth is a healthy and growing Eucharistic faith community that brings people to Christ, forms disciples, and sends them out to transform the world. We commit to worship, to grow, to serve, to connect, and to give.* This vision is aspirational and ambitious and bringing it to reality requires parish members to continue to commit to both temporal and spiritual tasks.

On the temporal side, we are well served. Our committees and staff members do great work. Executive Manager Denise Fleming and her team of six employees work as a well organised group in areas as diverse as administration, youth, young families, music and finance. They are well supported by committees filled with generous, capable volunteers. It is through the guidance of these committees that the parish has recently cashed up some of its assets to make upgrades and additions to Our Lady Help of Christians, construct a presbytery and repair St Joseph’s lantern. These improvements will all serve us well for at least the next three generations. Renovation of St Josephs’ interior and addition of a new parish centre are to follow. Another parish information meeting will be hosted once plans are in place for community presentation.

Temporal matters are indispensable, but they sit very much in second place to spiritual aspects in a Church community. Fortunately, those who work on our temporal matters also fuel their motivations through the Holy Spirit. Leading in the spiritual arena is our Parish Priest – Simon Story. We are fortunate that Simon is Spirit-filled, hard-working, creative and determined that our parish should not be allowed to decline. He is well supported by Vui who brings youthfulness, joy and many communication gifts as a young priest who is wise before his time. Speaking of wisdom – Tom is fondly regarded as the long-time guru of our parish. He is much loved for his reassuring wisdom that gives comfort with an avuncular style of Catholic spirituality.

Our leadership team has been called to govern. It is not our task to supplant the work that the many volunteers, employees and committees already carry out. Instead, it is our role to refer constantly to the *Vision Statement* and give over-arching guidance to all activities in our parish. We have taken our lead from Simon who is determined that the parish should concentrate on mission rather than mere maintenance. It is too obvious to all of us that Covid has affected parish activities and attendance. In response to this, and the continual decline we have all observed over the last twenty years, Simon has formed a *Mission Discernment Team* and is determined to focus strongly on the *Alpha* programme, to evangelise new parishioners and organise more vibrant liturgies with warmer hospitality in order to grow our parish. I say again, that we are fortunate to have his vision and talents. His lead is in line with Proverbs 29:18 which states, “Without a vision, the people perish.”

I look forward to the renovation of our parish. We have good people, great resources and a strong past. The mission for all of us is to be open to the Spirit who will guide our hearts and energies in constantly renovating our parish to better meet the needs of God’s People into the future.

Martin Chamberlain - Chairperson