

**Minutes of The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth (Te Pārihi Katorika ki Ngāmotu) AGM held on  
18 October 2020 at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Fitzroy**

**Apologies:** Chris Wells, Vui Hoang, Denise Fleming, Marian Richardson, Michael Finnigan, Grant Novak, Quinton Reeves.

**Present:** Fr Simon Story, Benita Murray (Chairperson LT), Craig Maclean, Colin Comber (Chairperson Finance), Helen Basille, Roland Devine, Albert Chow, Josephine Reeves, Mary Bernet, Fay and Tony Murcott, Noeline McSweeney, Ireen Crossan, plus members of the Bell Block Community including, Barbara McCracken, Sue Mace, Murray Mace, Sue & Frank Falaniko, Christian and Martin Schmitz

**Introduction:** Benita Murray

**Parish vision** - Fr Simon gave a brief summary of the Parish Vision.

**Finances** – Colin Comber presented a precis of the Audited Accounts to End of Financial Year – 30th September 2019

**General Business:**

**Property (including vision/ broad intention of plan for St Josephs)** – Craig Maclean  
Mrs J Reeves questioned the cost of architects to date on St Joseph's reconfiguration.

**Staff / Ministries / Achievements/ Communication plans** – APP launched – Benita Murray presented her report encompassing these topics.

**Future of Bell Block Mass Centre:** A comprehensive discussion was had on this subject

Some of the issues/questions raised by the Bell Block community included:

- What are the plans for the Bell Block Mass centre?
- What is the timeframe for closing the Mass centre?
- The community wishes to continue holding their own Liturgy of the Word with Communion services weekly with a Mass celebrated when/if a priest is available.
- The community felt that there has not been enough consultation and collaboration around the future of the Bell Block community.
- Simon suggested involving the community in other activities such as Alpha as a means to retaining the camaraderie whilst coming to OLHC or St Joseph's for Mass each Sunday.

It was agreed that the Leadership Team would meet with the Bell Block community in early December to discuss next steps, however Simon stated that Masses at Bell Block would finish and confirmed clearly that there were two points that are to be accepted and will not be part of any discussion:

There are two points that we cannot change for the BBK community:

- 1) there are insufficient priests to continue offering Sunday Mass to the BBK community. Sunday Mass will need to come to an end in 2021.

2) that Catholics go to Mass on Sunday. A LoWwC does not replace Sunday Mass and the parish cannot change this.

**Meeting Closed:** 1pm

**Proposed Date of next AGM:** March 2021