



CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH

TE PĀRIHI KATORIKA KI NGĀMOTU

Engagement and Culture Survey



WHO RESPONDED?

320

adults who come to our churches

134

secondary school students

287

primary school students

SO WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

OUR PARISH HAS AN OVERALL ENGAGEMENT SCORE OF 59%

This overall engagement score is made up of how closely parishioners' lives and experience of the parish is to our stated parish vision and desired culture.

This means we have a little way to go before we are living our dream parish. In this report you will find a breakdown of our parish's strengths and opportunities for growth as told by you, our parishioners.

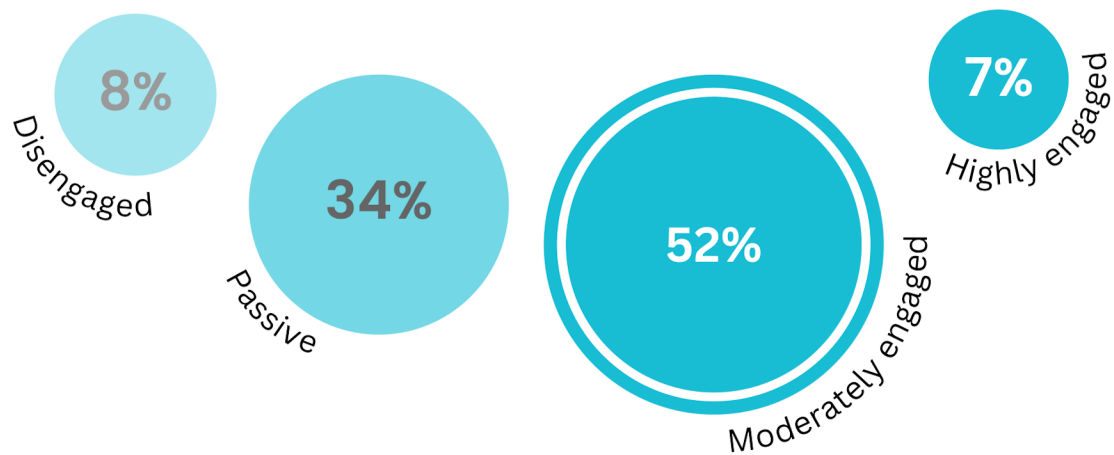


Pictures are courtesy of the children of our parish

Our Vision

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.

HOW MUCH ARE WE ON FIRE WITH THE VISION?



Strengths

- ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST
- WORSHIP



Opportunities

- FORMING DISCIPLES
- TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
- BRINGING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

Our Desired Culture

Culture is 'the way things are done around here, the attitudes and practices that are normal for us. The elements of our desired culture are:

WORSHIP
& PRAYER

FELLOWSHIP
& COMMUNITY

FORMATION
& DISCIPLESHIP

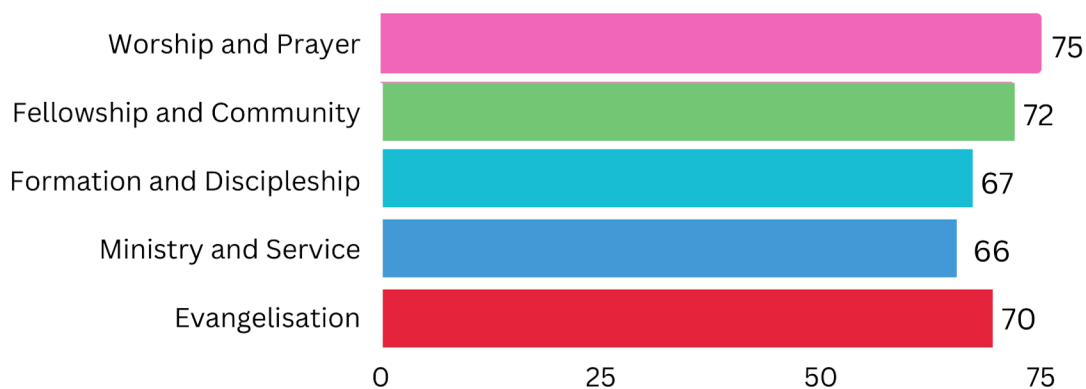
MINISTRY
& SERVICE

EVANGELISATION

These five culture elements will form the framework for the **Parish Mission Plan**.



OVERALL HOW ENGAGED ARE WE WITH OUR DESIRED CULTURE?



We're most engaged with Worship and Prayer elements of our desired culture, and least engaged with Ministry and Service. Over the next few pages you can read more about what you said and what you would like to see happen.

What it looks like when we are engaged

WORSHIP & PRAYER



'... as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread' (Acts 2:46)

Every member celebrates the Eucharist as a moving and transformative experience that brings them into an intimate encounter with Jesus and with the community around them.

HOW ENGAGED ARE WE WITH WORSHIP & PRAYER?



75% I am leading a life of prayer



77% I experience the celebration of the Eucharist as transformative



73% I am nurtured by the homilies



75% I feel the music at Mass aids in my encounter with Christ

Our hopes



Comfy seats (cushions on the seats, couches, cushions, beanbags) (28)



Space for Children's liturgy/Children's Church (27)



The parish and Mass is more entertaining, interesting, fun, relevant and understandable for kids (20)



We have a shorter Mass / 30min Mass for kids (19)



Each Mass is an amazing encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and draws us closer to God (8)

Better music (26)



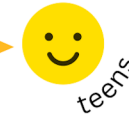
We have many/more Masses (11)



Lively, joyful, inspiring, upbeat or powerful songs (10)



Better music; more enthusiastic, uplifting songs (9)



Great hospitality; more welcoming before Mass, and with food and drink after Mass (9)



Homilies of quality; meaningful, vibrant, charismatic, educational, inspiring and encouraging (9)



Our fears



Mass too long (10) and boring (10)

teens

What it looks like when we are engaged

FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY



'They devoted themselves ... to fellowship ... All who believed were together and had all things in common.' (Acts 2:42, 44)

Every member experiences a welcoming, hospitable and meaningful community where people are known and loved and are nurtured in their call to holiness.

HOW ENGAGED ARE WE WITH FELLOWSHIP/COMMUNITY?



74% I experience a hospitable community



69% I am nurtured by members of the Parish



73% I am known by members of the Parish



71% I actively contribute to the life of the Parish

Our hopes



adults

An open, friendly, caring, supportive and loving Catholic faith community/family (59)



adults

A lively warm and welcoming community/family/environment (37)



children

Play area for after Mass (25)



adults

People feel accepted and included (14)



adults

We know, embrace, acknowledge and involve the different cultural backgrounds of our parishioners (12)



adults

A parish is a community of communities, gathering in small groups (9)



teens

That the Church will be a welcoming, inclusive and accepting place for all people (9)

Activity Days (sports, pets, bouncy castle, art & crafts, PJs, quiz, disco, gaming) (95)



children

Food is shared after Mass (Cafe next to the Church, lollies, pizza, nice food, biscuits, cotton candy machine, gelato, donuts, sausage sizzle; a food truck, cafe, coffee for the adults and slushies for the kids, tuck shop, cupcakes, donut cafe, chips, ice cream; chocolate biscuits, hot chocolate, cheese, vegetarian food) (65)

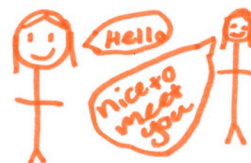


children

Food is shared after Mass (13)



teens



Our fears

Not involving the youth; having the youth no longer going to Church (9)



teens

What it looks like when we are engaged

DISCIPLESHIP & FORMATION



'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.' (Acts 2:42)

Every member is growing in their spiritual formation, knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith through the provision of regular opportunities for formation in Scripture and Tradition.

HOW ENGAGED ARE WE WITH DISCIPLESHIP/FORMATION?



73% I am growing in my Catholic spiritual formation



73% I am growing in my knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith



60% I take part in formation opportunities about the Scriptures



61% I take part in the formation opportunities about the Catholic Traditions

Our fears



adults

We are losing our Catholic identity, faith, essence and traditions (14)



adults

The church is being influenced by the current culture, secularism and worldliness; contradicting our Catholic beliefs and not listening to God's Word (13)



Our hopes

Parishioners know, honour and love the sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church; are strong in their Catholic identity, living the faith and values (18)



adults

Make it more entertaining, interesting, fun, relevant and understandable for kids (20)



teens

Parishioners have deepening of faith and personal relationship with Christ (16)



adults

The community gathers for formation; where teachings and traditions are taught (faith enrichment programmes and retreats) (12)



adults

What we notice here is

There is a significant dichotomy between our professed spiritual growth and our actual engagement in formation activity

What it looks like when we are engaged

MINISTRY & SERVICE



'All who believed were together and had all things in common, they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.' (Acts 2:44-45)

Every member is called to and engaged in service, both within the parish and outwardly to those who do not yet belong.

HOW ENGAGED ARE WE WITH MINISTRY/SERVICE?



62% I am helped to understand my gifts and talents



67% I am encouraged to serve in areas that use my gifts and talents



70% I am serving within the parish



48% I am going out into the world, beyond the people who belong to the parish, to serve those in need

Our hopes



Serving and helping the wider community (10)

We have a range of ages actively involved, serving or participating (8)



What
we
notice
here is

We are stronger in serving the parish, and less strong in going out into the world to serve those in need. There is also a significant opportunity for helping each other to understand our talents and to encourage each other to serve in areas that use these talents.

What it looks like when we are engaged

EVANGELISATION



'And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.' (Acts 2:47)

Every member has a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ and is willing, able, and active in sharing the Gospel with others, bringing children and adults into a personal relationship with Jesus.

HOW ENGAGED ARE WE WITH EVANGELISATION?



79% I have a deepening personal relationship with Jesus Christ



72% I am willing to share the Gospel with others



68% I have the ability to share the Gospel with others



61% I am actively sharing the Gospel with others

Our hopes



adults

Our parish faith community will grow (70) (includes: more people attending Mass (30) more young families (25))



teens

More people join the community, attend Church, and the parish grows (16)



adults

We are actively involved in sharing our faith; spreading the gospel; reaching out to bring people to Christ and Mass; there is revival; we take Christ to people; we save lives (11)



Our fears



teens

The Church community is aging, not many people going to Church and our Parish might close (43)

Declining number of parishioners attending Mass (54)



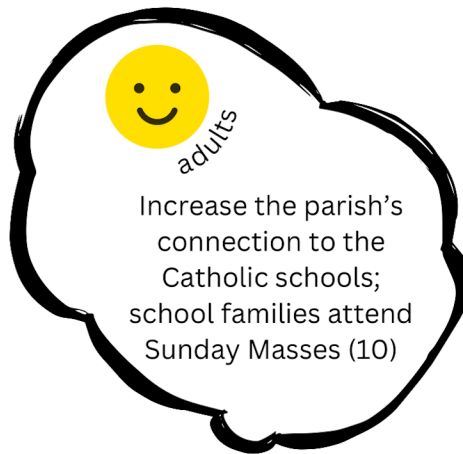
adults

An aging parish; a lack of young adults and young families (53)

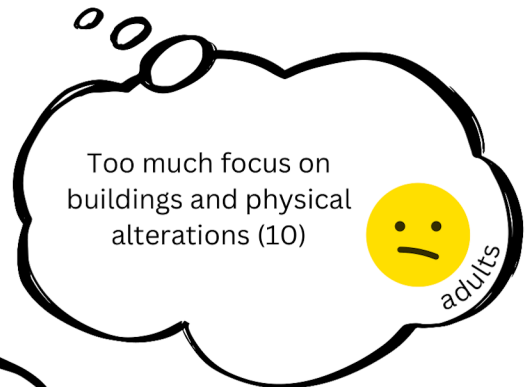
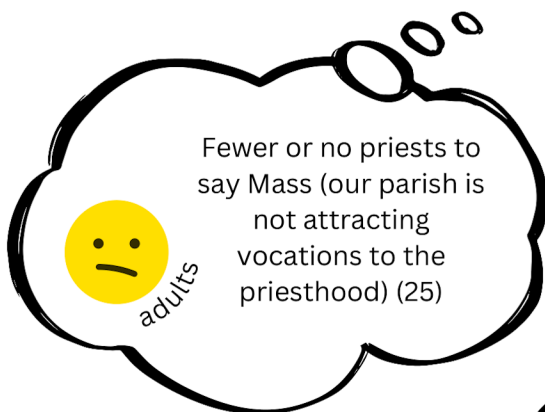


adults

Our hopes



What other hopes and fears does CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH TE PĀRIHI KATORIKA KI NGĀMOTU have?



Our fears