

Background to St Joseph's Parish Review

The mission we seek to achieve, as directed by Cardinal John Dew is "to reach out to the poor", a synod call to minister to people on the peripheries of our Church community and the wider local community.

This mission is to be achieved by St Joseph's Parish family, who consist of St Joseph Parish Community and St Joseph's School.

To achieve our mission, we need to build community, deepen our knowledge of the mission, outreach to and give welcome, hospitality and support to the people on the peripheries.

The Anchors to our Review

Baptism is the call to Mission, Ministry, and the Eucharist as source and summit of Catholic Life: "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn conforms our way of thinking."

St Joseph's Parish and St Joseph's School - one in Mission and Ministry

Issues to consider within our Review

1. Becoming a poor church for the Poor
2. Reduction in ordained minister/s availability
3. Ensuring Financial Security
4. The growth of the Parish



Current Resources available to our Parish

Outreach groups

St Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, EJP group, Catholic Women's League, Community Meal, Communion to the Sick, Prison Visitation, Catechumenate, St Joseph's School

Prayer/Liturgy

Divine mercy, Prayer/Bible reflection home groups, Adoration Chapel. Liturgy Committee, Legion of Mary

Social groups

Play group, Friday Music, Youth group, Passionist Family groups, Catholic Women's League, Cultural Groups within our diverse community

Physical Assets

St Joseph's Church, Presbytery, Meeting room, St Joseph's Hall, Tennis courts, St Peter Chanel Centre, Nagel House (rentals), Land

Personal

Ordained minister, Pastoral Parish Council, Finance Committee, Liturgy Committee, Cultural Groups, Diverse Community, Liturgical Ministries, Music Ministry.



1. Becoming a poor Church for the Poor – 'Going out to the peripheries'

Develop a plan to:

- Advertise and promote outreach groups' constitution, activities, focus.
- Encourage membership of outreach groups
- Encourage parish participation in projects
- Identify and seek out those on the peripheries of our faith family and include them in participation and leadership.
- Seek out, the material poor, spiritually hungry and those on the peripheries in our local community and provide pathways to offer them welcome hospitality support.

How do we achieve this?

- Increase opportunities to outreach
- Stronger partnership between Parish and School for outreach
- A child and youth focused parish
- Increase youth training for leadership



2. Reduction in Ordained Ministers

Develop a plan to:

Provide opportunities for all to respond to their Baptismal call to Mission and Ministry

- Providing training for specific ministries - e.g. RCIA, Alpha program, Children's Liturgy, Bereavement support, Communion to the sick, Sacramental program, Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers.
- Parish Based Training
- Education in the faith, Bible study, scripture reflection, Church Encyclicals, Eucharist as source and summit, and call to Mission.
- Identify youth for leadership, then provide training for leadership and ministry.
- Promote encourage welcome leadership from all ethnic groups within parish/school.
- Encourage children, especially those who have received Confirmation and First Holy Communion, to fuller participation in the life of church and Mission of the church.
- Deepen the faith communities understanding of the celebration of the Mass.
- Source out and or develop a modular training for ministry program.

How do we achieve this?

- Education in faith coordinator and committee
- Parish Church promotion of youth, children, leadership and participation.
- School promotion of Mission and Ministry as a vocational pathway.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 4 of 9



3. Ensuring Financial Security

Develop a plan to:

- Become a stewardship focused Parish.
- Utilize our buildings for community growth and outreach.
- Promote planned financial commitment to parish of all parishioners inclusive of school community.

How do we achieve this?

- Stewardship committee.
- Planned yearly Time Talent and Treasure survey.
- Buildings plan.
- Planned biannual major planning giving program.
- Mini Plan giving programme biannually.
- Self-funding St Peter Chanel centre.
- Nagel house rentals (St Peter Chanel complex).
- Hall fund raising group.
- Communications group.
- Set Budget to fund and achieve desired outcomes.



4. The Growth of the Parish

Develop a plan to:

- Maintain and enhance current liturgical practice, prayer and parish activities outside of Mass times.
- Build the life of the community.
- Engage with the Parish school and develop a partnership for mission.
- Develop our understanding of children's experience of God and create opportunities to include this in wider parish life.
- Promote youth leadership and participation within the life of the faith community.
- Welcome and offer hospitality to those on the peripheries.
- Socialise together.
- Provide support for those in need.
- Advocate for justice and right relationships in the Church family and wider community.
- Develop children and youth centred liturgies and prayer experiences.
- Make opportunities for non-traditional celebration of the Eucharist (Café Church)
- Provide varied prayer experiences and celebrations.
- Explore opportunities for sharing cross cultural traditions, music, language, prayer social activities.
- Develop Maori cultural input / Te Reo in Mass.



How do we achieve this?

- Liturgy committee.
- Social committee.
- Pastoral Parish Council / School board member.
- Youth leaders / youth council.
- EJP committee.
- Child advocate/committee.
- Maori/Ethnic group animator.
- Disabilities adviser.



We currently have

A Church building that is purpose built for Sunday and weekday Mass and Prayer. It is used for sacramental gathering, and on occasion it can host visiting speakers, although in the winter months this is not practical as it is a large space that does not warm up easily.

A Parish foyer that was designed for gathering immediately after masses or sacramental gatherings for fellowship, with opportunity for a cup of tea and biscuit, out of inclement weather.

A presbytery that has had 45% of its roof replaced, a kitchen upgrade, bathroom renovations, some new carpet in entrance, installed broadband. This building was built to house a number of priests; it has two self-contained apartments, on ground floor, three bedrooms, with shared utilities, a large lounge that is sometimes used as parish meeting space.

It is connected to a space that was used as the parish office and is now used for smaller parish meetings when needed and as an office space by the Upper Hutt Housing Trust for meetings and client interviews.

There is a meeting room where parish meetings are generally held.

- The presbytery and connecting spaces lend themselves to multiple uses and could be redesigned. With the prospect of only one or two priests needing to be housed it is proposed to evaluate the space with the aim of providing better living space for the priests.
- Houses and a parish centre outside of town (St Peter Chanel), a more modern multi-purpose building, built for the growing community of Maoribank that is under-utilised, but has been identified by Greenstone Doors as an ideal building for a family centre, focused on expectant mums, single parents, and families at risk. The proposal is to make the building available to Greenstone Doors for a lease to cover costs with a small income gain for maintenance.



- An old Parish hall, in need of continual maintenance that no longer meets the current needs of the Parish or school. The existing building has inadequate toilet spaces, an old kitchen lacking suitable cooking facilities for a large group, concrete floors, borer in the walls, single glazing, no insulation in the walls/roof, a roof that needs a \$29,000 replacement, old wiring and a stage area that is of no viable use.

Appropriate Spaces to complete the Mission

- We need a shared facility to develop the Church community and to develop the links between the Parish and School.
- We need a welcoming place that all can gather in comfortably, with the community experience enhanced.
- A space the Parish community can gather in to discuss our Parish clearly identified in all that is given in the preceding paragraphs.

Buildings Proposal

- To build a new Parish hall for the combined use of St Joseph's Parish and St Joseph's School.
- To lease St Peter Chanel centre to Greenstone Doors.
- To consider a redesign of presbytery.

