

## **Catholic Parish of Hastings Pastoral Council Chairman's Report 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

It's with pleasure that I present to you the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pastoral Council report for the reunified Catholic Parish of Hastings.

As always I begin with thanking Fr Vince for his continuous dedication to our parish. The understanding and appreciation of our parish pastoral care is always at the forefront of Fr Vince's thinking which provides great satisfaction to those of us who make up The Catholic Parish of Hastings.

It's been a busy time throughout this last 2 years with focus on many aspects of our Parish life, some that I will touch on shortly, but to start I must convey a message of sincere thanks and appreciation to the many people that make this parish work. Whether it be volunteer or paid employee, every single person that takes up a task to make this parish function is an absolute intricate part of making this a vibrant, caring, loving parish and to quote our newly developed Vision Statement, 'Living as Christ'. We cannot do it without you and I am so appreciative of what you do, Thank You.

One of our greatest focuses this past year has been to develop a Vision and Mission Statement which would lead to a 5 year Strategic Plan being put in place. Well I'm pleased to announce that the Vision & Mission Statements are now in place with the launching of these a few weeks ago. This was the culmination of work that commenced back in Feb 2018 with the very well attended Focus Day that brought together many ideas that we needed to act on. At that stage it became obvious that it was a greater task than any of us could attempt and we sought the assistance of Carmel Spencer who has a very good back ground in developing such things. A small group of us spent time with Carmel setting out what our ambitions were and to present to her all the ideas that came out of the Focus Day. From this Carmel went away to develop a plan of how she would come up with the Vision & Mission Statements, which eventuated in her meeting with each of our 4 communities to further understand what our expectations were. From this point the small group met with Carmel on 2 or 3 different occasions, finally agreeing on what has now been presented to the parish in the Form of our Vision "Living as Christ" and Mission Statement. I sincerely hope we have all taken the time to read and understand them. The next stage of this is to develop a 5 year Strategic Plan

and over the past couple of weeks the Pastoral Council has spent many hours together working on this. We are well on the way to completion and looking forward to presenting this and our new logo when we celebrate our 4 year anniversary of reunification late in June. We ask your continued prayerful support through this time.

When we look back over the past 2 years many things come to mind about the activities we have undertaken and been involved in and to name a few;

- Te Vita's ordination as a Deacon. Having an ordination within our Parish is always a very special occasion and this was no exception. How wonderful to see one of our fellow parishioners committing to his faith in this very special way and assisting our priests and serving his community. Te Vita we thank you and are indebted to you for this brave step you have taken.
- Welcoming Trung into our community for his Pastoral Formation leading into his final year of study towards a priestly vocation. What a wonderfully energetic & enthusiastic man to have amongst us and you always knew when he was in the congregation with his booming singing voice. We wish him well towards his vocation.
- Farewelling our beloved Fr Nat. What a ride it was having him with us for 5 years, in which time we celebrated his ordinations into the Diaconate, and then Priesthood. A totally committed member of our parish family who never stopped giving (apart from when he went missing for 4 months following some immigration issues). Like all good things that must come to an end we bade Fr Nat goodbye at the end of Jan to take up his appointment in Whanganui.
- We had parishioners of ours receiving Civil Recognition Awards, Jill Frizzell together with David and Margaret Kitt received awards for services to the community.
- The One Day Taster Retreat organised by Mary Fama which led us into a committed 5 week retreat throughout May last year. Although the numbers were few it was a very rewarding opportunity to continue our faith journey.
- The pilgrimage to the resting Place of Suzanne Aubert. Once again very few numbers but a totally fulfilling experience in following her footsteps and understanding what an incredible person she was and how now we are fervently praying for her Canonisation, to be the 1<sup>st</sup> recognised saint of New Zealand and she was very much part of our community here in

Hawke's Bay. The work that is taking place with the 1880 Church of The Immaculate Conception Restoration Programme which is the church that Mother Aubert prayed in.

- The St Peter Chanel refurbishment. What a long drawn out process that was which involved building strengthening but we got there and now have a safe functioning place to worship. Special thanks to the team that worked tirelessly on this project.

There are many more activities that I could mention but all who have been involved will know of them and to those that haven't been involved I encourage you to seek out parish activities and engage, it's always fulfilling.

This leads to one part of our parish life that is always struggling. We have many activities going on and these take up precious time and this inevitably falls on all too few that have been giving for a long time. At this time we desperately need people to understand their talents and become involved so to lighten the load for those that are involved. I urge you to give serious consideration to this need and make contact with any one of our committee members or the office. Your action in this regard will be appreciated.

To the liturgy and finance committees; a huge thank-you for the continued guidance and protection of our parish.

To Debbie in her role as our Pastoral Assistant and Trish & Jeananne in the office; thank you for your effort in stringing everything together and looking out for things that matter in parish life.

The Pastoral Council has seen 4 resignations over the past 2 years; I would like to thank Mary Fama, Judith Drabble, Hera Ferris & Gloria O'Rielly for the time and effort they have put into assisting the pastoral council for a number of years. Also to thank our existing members for their untiring effort in the work they continue to do, particularly with the development of our Strategic Plan.

In conclusion I would like to thank again all other members who dedicate time and effort in making our parish what it is today and encourage involvement of many others, we need you!!

I move that the Pastoral Council Chairman's report be accepted, can I have a seconder please.

