

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2021**

### **Richard Jennings**

I was born in England rather a lot of years ago and baptised Richard Patrick in the Anglican church. After WW2 I joined my parents in Africa, completing my education in South Africa, where I met and married Diana. We have three daughters and three grandchildren. We came to New Zealand in 1980 and to Hawkes Bay after I retired in 2003. Diana and I were confirmed into the Catholic church in 2009. I have served on the equivalent of five Anglican PPCs and many church, industrial and political committees, most of which I enjoyed!

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### **Jenny Cumberbeach**

I was baptised Jennifer Jean as a baby at St James Anglican Church in Roxburgh Central Otago. My family moved to Hastings when I was four. I attended Sunday School and Bible class at St Matthew's Church where I was confirmed as a teenager. After high school I completed a Social Science degree at Waikato University then worked with intellectually disabled children and adults before studying performance flute and piano in Wellington. Fast forward to life back in the Bay as a young mother when I began extramural studies in literature and practising meditation. Through that practice I came into contact with Christian meditation, made an inquiry into the RCIA program and became confirmed into the Roman Catholic Church in 2016. Recently, I offered to help in our first Alpha course in which I was given the role of being a small group host. I continue in my daily practice of contemplative prayer, Bible reading and theological study. As a member of the PPC I hope to help in the ongoing creation of a truly alive and Spirit led Church community in which everyone may feel they belong. To this role I bring my spiritual journey and life experience.

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### **Seletuta (Tuta) Visesio-Pita**

"My name is Seletuta Visesio-Pita and I am a Samoan. My family attended SPC in the last 2.5 years and now attending SHC as it is close to where my family now live. I am married with three children, two of them are attending St. Mary's School - Yr7 & Yr 2. I served the Catholic church back in Samoa as a Parish council member for 6years and lead the parish catholic youth group. When moving to NZ with my family in 2016, I was elected as a Board Member for St. Mary's sch Hastings and actively participate in sch activities. I am the Service Manager for the Ministry of Social Development- Centralised Services Unit, Hastings. I started serving the Catholic Pastoral Council of Hastings as a member of the council in September 2019. I am keen and committed to serve the Parish and engaged with all our whanau to love and serve the Lord."

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## **Lynn and Rob Hill**

'Hi, my name is Lynn Hill. My husband, Rob, and I moved to Hawkes Bay in 2016 and live just out of Haumoana on an Apple Orchard which is owned by our son in law & daughter. We moved to be close to our children and grandchildren. We retired as National Directors of Passionist Family Groups when we moved here in 2016, having given 28 years to the Movement, and continue to enjoy a close association with the Passionists. Rob and I are 'committed' to building community, seeing our parish as a 'family'."

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## **Claudia Beacham**

"I was baptised as Claudia Mercedes Philadelphia Beacham, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Paki Paki. Hawke's Bay has always been home, save for Psychology training in Palmerston North. There, I discovered the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, All Saints; Anglican Church and Central Baptist Church Chinese Community. Inspired, I received Confirmation at St Peter Chanel Hastings, 2013. Sacred Heart Hastings became my base, from which I joined Young Adults groups here, at Ascend Global Church, and Peak Vision Church. Relocating to Havelock North in June, I felt welcomed by Our Lady of Lourdes, and helped host your first Alpha. Director of post-COVID-19 outreach, Eastern Energetics, I offer Yoga, Massage, Counselling, Youth Work, and Fitness to people and their pets. Religious Arts, Ignation Spirituality, Christian Unity, and Inter-Faith Dialogue attract me to Parish Council."

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## **Lucy Laitinen**

"My name is Lucy Laitinen and I worship at Sacred Heart with my husband Harri and two children, Mila (9) and Max (6). The kids attend St Jo's. We moved down from Auckland three years ago and live just out of Havelock North. I grew up in rural Hawke's Bay and Ruatoria, went to Sacred Heart church as a child then attended Sacred Heart College in Napier as a boarder. I am the CEO for Anglican Care Waiapu, the social services arm of the Anglican church in this region. I have never been on a parish council but am keen to help find ways for families to engage in the life of the church. I have a strong social justice focus and would like to help the parish find new ways to engage with the vulnerable in our community."

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## **Charles Ropitini**

Kia ora, my name is Charles Ropitini and I am a kaitiaki (caretaker) for the Church of the Immaculate Conception Pakipaki, where I was baptised and confirmed. My wife Kathrin and I have been married for ten years and have two children, Paraire and Maioha, who are pupils at St Joseph's Primary School. I am currently in formation for the permanent Diaconate and have a passion for being Māori Catholic. Our whānau enjoy being active in parish, school and marae life, and we look forward to being of service with the Parish Council in this special year dedicated to St Joseph.

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## **Nicola De Jesus**

Hello! I am Nicola De Jesus, I live in Havelock North with my husband Daniel, and children Gabriella (7) and Samuel (5), who both attend St Joseph's School. I work as a financial administrator within a family business I run with my brother, carting livestock. Daniel and I were married at the Sacred Heart Church in 2012. We were both born into catholic families, Daniel's family are Portugese, which is where the surname comes from. I heard the call for parishioners to step up and join the Parish Council, so I have put up my hand - I feel I can offer the time, dedication and positivity required to assist the council with making important decisions for our Parish, and hopefully help develop some new initiatives.