

PPC 2022 Annual Report to the ECB Catholic Parish

Peace and Grace in Jesus name.

The Parish Pastoral Council wishes to report to you about PPC activities during the last year and also to look forward to the year ahead.

The current PPC was formed in early 2021 with two past members and several new ones. We work alongside the Priests to guide and attend to the pastoral needs of the parish, with the Finance Committee attending to financial matters.

We adopted and endorsed the current Parish Pastoral Plan 2020 - 2025 which starts with the following:

Our Mission: To build a loving, inclusive, caring, Christ-like community that inspires all to spread the message of Jesus Christ

Our Vision: Inspiring a loving, caring, Christ-like community

There is Papal and Diocesan encouragement for the Church to change and become **Mission** focused rather than being in a maintenance mode. ECB Parish has started on this journey.

COVID

The past year was dominated by Covid-19 through lockdowns and then Government Guidelines on how we can function. The PPC worked through how this actually applied to our masses and other gatherings - our "Covid response plan" was regularly redrafted as we went up and down levels and traffic light colours changed. The plans were communicated to guide us how to participate as best we could in Church life. Like others, the PPC often had zoom meetings as face-to-face was not possible. We acknowledge that Covid discussions were challenging and the decisions we arrived at were not universally agreed with - please forgive us where we have fallen short.

The challenge is now to rebuild our community that was vibrant before being hit by the pandemic. Everyone's enthusiasm and participation is valued in helping with this.

VOLUNTEERS

We thank all volunteers for your valuable contributions to our parish - I know there are many people doing many important things. Your constant inputs are vital to the masses, the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, the sacramental programmes, and the committees to name a few. Without you the Church would not function.

So, a big thank-you in these difficult times but also a request that you may continue in these ministries. A further request is that you may approach and ask other suitable people as we need to encourage more people to volunteer - especially as altar servers as we resume a more comprehensive mass timetable. I am certain your contributions put a big smile on Jesus' face.

HOSPITALITY / SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

On 30 March 2021 a traditional Jewish Paschal meal took place in St John's school hall.

Mid-winter Christmas functions were held by the Passionist Family Groups inviting new members.

There are moves afoot to revitalise the Passionist Family Group movement.

Several planned activities were not held due to Covid restrictions and cautious attitudes to gathering.

YOUTH MINISTRY

A group has formed with a mission to invigorate youth and encourage involvement in church life. The Mike Byrnes room, next to St FRANCIS de Sales Church, has been allocated for youth to make as their own (while also available for other groups to use). Investigations into appointing a part-time paid Youth Coordinator.

CARING COMMITTEE

This committee meets regularly acting as an umbrella connecting those with unmet needs to existing groups within the parish and the community.

LITURGY

Regular work is done on liturgical needs, liturgical events/feasts, sacramental programs and rostering of volunteers for the multitude tasks.

MISSION

Alpha programme for married couples is currently being offered. We are talking about forming an alpha committee as Alpha is promoted by Divine Renovation as the vehicle of engagement to reach out and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

SYNODAL JOURNEY 2021-2023

The journey has begun where small groups are meeting to reflect and share their thoughts on how we journey together as people of God. This is fed-back to the Diocese and through to the Pope. It is a process of consultation and discernment on the path of becoming the Church that God calls us to be. “The Holy Father wants to hear the voices of all the baptised.”

OTHER

Investigations made into obtaining an EFTPOS machine for the parish - for gifting and payments.

New database "Infoodle" has been installed to improve office functions and improve communication with parishioners - some volunteers are updating this to improve its usefulness.

Investigations are starting into whether parishioners would like a Columbarium in our parish and what the establishment and operating costs will be. A columbarium niche is a final resting place for ashes after cremation - typically built into a wall made up of individual compartments. Columbaria are in Pakuranga and Orewa parishes.

Requests have been made to improve our sound systems for those with hearing aids. We have provisional costing and would also like to know how many people are finding they are having trouble hearing.

At the back of both Churches there is a board with photos and names of current PPC members - please contact one or all of us with ideas, requests, or feed-back. You are always invited to attend any of the monthly PPC meetings.

VISIONING AHEAD

There has been agreement to journey our parish from maintenance to mission mode.

Becoming a mission parish will require changes from just maintaining our parish as it is currently functioning to becoming outward focused. Believers becoming disciples.

The Great Commission is outlined in Matthew 28:16–20, where on a mountain in Galilee Jesus says to his followers to make disciples, to baptise and teach them:

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’”

For our ECB Parish to be Mission minded then we could dream of what our future could look like:

ECB OUR VISION: By the power of the Holy Spirit, ECB Parish is a thriving parish family that draws people to Jesus Christ, forms them to be intentional disciples, and sends them out to transform the world through love. We joyfully commit to worship, community, ongoing formation, ministry, and evangelization.

OUR PURPOSE will be to form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The change agent is bringing people to encounter Jesus - the Alpha program is a great tool to help on this journey. Some of us have benefitted and been uplifted, now is the time to roll out wider use of Alpha to bring about this encounter with Jesus and also to develop a leadership pipeline. HE is the vine, we are the branches, missionary disciples are the fruit.

In addition to Mission, building a greater sense of community can be enhanced through such things as:

- hospitality - morning teas after mass; shared meals; promote Passionist Family Groups
- celebrating cultures within our parish

Some projects are being considered and we would like your views:

- Sound Systems improvements for those with hearing aids
- Improvements to toilets at St FRANCIS de Sales
- Presbytery upgrade
- Would parishioners like a Columbarium?
- Improvements to the Mike Byrnes Room, especially as a place for Youth Groups
- Internet at St. FRANCIS de Sales
- Better lighting at St. FRANCIS de Sales
- Some fences need repairs

PARISH PASTORAL ASSEMBLY

This is a written report as an update to parishioners. Together with the Finance Committee we plan to hold a meeting, a Parish Pastoral Assembly (PPA or AGM), possibly **Sunday 18th September 12.00pm in St John's School hall** where all are welcome and all will have an opportunity to speak and be listened to. An agenda will be drafted along with the date, time and venue. This will be well publicised.

In the interests of running the meeting well - we ask that parishioners submit written questions before the meeting and prepare themselves to speak to the issue. This may enable us to group similar subjects together. Please submit these no later than one week before by email to the chair of the PPC: michael@bravenboer.co.nz

We would like 2-3 more PPC members who feel called to pastoral leadership roles - particularly calling for your groups and cultures to be involved in the PPC. Teamwork makes the Dream work.

Please forward nominations in the run up to the PPA and elections/appointments can be finalised at the PPA.