



The Catholic Parish of Napier
Te Pāhū Katorika ki Ahuriri

Parish Annual General Meeting. Minutes of meeting held in Napier Sunday 28 October 2018.

Present: Fr Barry Scannell (Parish Priest), Doug Neilson (Chair, Pastoral Council), Jonathan Bissell (Chair, Finance Committee) and 190 parishoners.

Opening: Fr Barry welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies: The Bishop of Palmerston North Diocese Bishop Charles apologised for his non-attendance due to a clash of engagements, as did several parishioners.

Pastoral Council: The Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, Doug Neilson, discussed the Vision and Mission of the Parish using a Power Point presentation. The names of those currently serving on the Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, and Finance Committee were listed. He acknowledged numerous volunteers who worked regularly and tirelessly on various Parish activities.

It was noted that there was a slight increase in the Mass Count as at November 2017 compared with the same month in 2016; 2017 – 964, 2016 - 890.

The objectives and the workings of the Liturgy Committee were explained.

Fr Barry emphasised the need to encourage a stronger connection between our Catholic schools and the Parish. There is a difficulty in that Reigner school in Taradale ends at year 6. At the present time, most children from Reigner do not continue their Catholic education at St Patrick's school for their intermediate years. This continues into secondary level, and so both Sacred Heart College in Napier and St John's College in Hastings are adversely affected.

Doug summarised the work of the year as being quieter than usual with the change-over of Parish Priest, and the effect of Fr Barry's sabbatical; however the Strategic Plan and Vision is in place, and most objectives have been achieved.

He thanked all those who have contributed to the workings of the Pastoral Council.

Fianance Committee: The Chair of the Finance Committee, Jonathan Bissell, summarised the financial results for the year ended 30 September using a Power Point presentation.

The income from usual sources (excluding bequests) was \$514,463 with the collections being the main source (74%).

The expenditure was \$488,239 with staff costs 30%, Diocesan Levies 31% and pastoral 10%. There is deferred maintenance to be done at the Presbytery in Osier road and also the St Mary's car-park.

The disappointment for the year, and the previous three years, was the significant adverse variance between Pledged Income and Actual Income.

The Balance Sheet of the Parish was in a sound state.

Parish Priest – Fr Barry Scannell: Father thanked all in the Parish who do voluntary work day

by day by day.

He addressed the meeting on three separate topics:

1. We must set a goal of reconnecting the parish schools with the church. We need young people attending Mass on Sundays. Our Catholic schools are in good shape, their special characters are in place, and he asked the Principals to stand and be thanked. There was spontaneous acclamation. (Principals of St John's college and St Joseph's Maori Girls College were not able to be present).
2. Three years ago the St Patrick's office and prebytery were demolished and the site cleared. A house was rented for the Priests' accommodation. The lease expires shortly and will not be renewed; the priests will be moving back to Osier Road. As this will be their "home" there will be no more meetings in the Presbytery. (Fr John Mori will move to Windsor Terrace).
3. Fr Barry has recently had a meeting with the Bishop, discussing the St Patrick's site. The Bishop knows what he would like – not just an office but a Pastoral, Administrative, and Mission Centre. The concept looks to the future, not the past. Fr Barry has been asked to draw up concept plans, and the parishioners will be asked to help in this.

Questions and Answers:

1. Attendees would like hard copy papers as well as overhead images.
2. There is difficulty in manning th Hub at St Patrick's. Acknowledged as a parish matter.
3. Are there any sketch plans for the St Patrick's site? No, just broad principles.
4. St Patrick's Hub needs a place for people to talk and visit. Agreed.
5. We need to ensure that the pathway through Primary, Intermediate and Secondary is secure for our pupils and their values. Agreed; Fr Barry noted we have Diocesan support.
6. Can we get youth involved more with music in Church? Yes, Fr Barry gave examples. The Youth co-ordinator (Chris) explained what used to happen and what can be resurrected.
7. Are we going to be consulted and heard? Yes
8. There were assets at the St Parick's office and Presbytery. Yes, they are being stored.
9. In the past, Mission was the front door of the church. Agreed.
10. Everything sounds wonderful, but look at the age of attendees. Agreed, but Fr Barry gave an example of the changes at St Mary of the Angels (Wellington).

General Business:

Fr Barry thanked Norma for arranging the Passionist family Group function that celebrated 30 years of activity. 140 people attended.

There is to be a parish function of 18 November at the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre at 4.00pm where a documentary on the restoration of St Mary of the Angels will be shown.

Closure: The meeting closed at 2.55pm with a prayer.