

# DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL



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## Diocesan Pastoral Council

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Vacancy

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Kia ora tatou katoa,

The Diocesan Pastoral Council met on Saturday 12 June at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre.

The meeting welcomed Paul Pau from St Dominic's Parish, Blockhouse Bay, as the new male representative from the Western region.

Reports were received from throughout the diocese. Several parishes are reflecting on and implementing the Diocesan Mission Map and continue to explore ways to bring it to life locally. It was great to see a growing number of pastoral councils inviting those under 25 to be members of the council.

Our formation at this meeting centred on the priority of the Diocesan Mission Plan Building up the Spirituality of Young People. We began with the 'Theme' team who explored with us Chapters 5-7 of Pope Francis' encyclical **Christus Vivit** promoting robust conversation about how the faith communities could practically implement the Pope's call to inclusion and accompaniment.

The Diocesan Youth and Young Adult team continued this theme challenging faith communities to provide welcome, participation and accompaniment to young people and thus building up their spirituality.

Bishop Michael in his reflection with the Council talked about the importance of vocation promotion and pray. He also announced the details of the **Rejoice Catholic Festival** being held **16 October** at Sancta Maria/St Luke's campus Flat Bush.

In these times of challenge, this festival will provide an opportunity for us to encounter Christ as the source of our joy, and to rejoice in and celebrate our Catholic faith as we live and proclaim the Gospel. This will be done by gathering as a Diocese to be inspired, encouraged, and strengthened as Catholics to love and serve as missionary disciples in our parishes, schools, and ethnic communities.

*"Rejoice in the Lord Always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"*

*(Philippians 4:4)*

### Dates for 2021

#### DPC Meeting dates

21 August

13 November

#### Reports due to Delegate.

6 August

29 October

### **Christus Vivit**

On young people, faith, and vocational discernment. Three members of the Council led us in looking at chapters five, six and seven noting that Pope Francis emphasized among other things that:

- Young people frequently fail to find in our usual programs a response to their concerns.
- The young make us see the need for new styles and new strategies.

The Council discussed how to involve young people in Church and suggested the following.

- Personal invitation.
- Listen and respond to youth requests.
- Provide solutions to issues about inclusion and access to participation.
- Involve young people in Parish ministries including Pastoral Council.
- Involving the young, involves the parents and provides outreach to them as well.
- Use targeted social media – contact youth through Instagram, Tik Tok. Facebook is for the middle aged.
- Food always draws the young– mix and mingle, social activities.
- Be honest in engagements and with their questions.
- Youth Masses are important times to stress a sense of belonging.
- Don't be scared of silence – offer retreats, mediation, silent reflection.
- Show and be part of those issues that they are interested in such as care of the environment.
- Provide youth leaders with skills in mental health (which diocesan ACYM have already started to do).

The Auckland Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team presented a workshop following on from the Council's reflection. They talked not only about their mahi but practical ways that faith communities can be young person focused.

#### **Key points of the presentation**

- Do we focus on behave > believe > belong OR Jesus' model belong > believe > behave?
- Pope Francis' assertion to young people that "you are the NOW of the Church" not sitting in a waiting room.
- DPC urged to watch Bishop Robert Barron's video on outreach to the disaffiliated presented to the USCBC  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znyEsvbrM8k>

#### **Engage young people with**

- The path of justice
- The path of beauty
- The path of new media
- The path of Truth
- The path of parish transformation – get out of the sacristy out to the margins.

#### **Key aspects of this engagement**

- Being greeted and made to feel welcome and that they belong (not just visitors).
- Young people participation, allow the experience of getting it not quite perfect or done slightly differently.
- Homilies need to be relevant.
- Opportunities for community gathering/connecting outside the Mass 'event' – drink, groups (faith sharing/justice etc.)
- The first 30 seconds is when young people make up their mind about how welcome they are.
  - Accompaniment is very important <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWDIoW7f6js> is a fun illustration. Word includes word companion – those who break bread together. If people believe in us, we can do great things.
- Fuller Institute Research says that young people need 4 or 5 significant adults who journey with them if they are to stay engaged with community.
- Two courses of youth ministry outreach (attracting young people through relationships) and growth in their relationship with Christ.
- Need to ask the young people themselves:
  - What do they want?
  - Where are they at?
  - Where should we meet them?