



# Auckland Diocesan Pastoral Council

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## Diocesan Pastoral Council November 2021

President Bishop Patrick Dunn DD

### Central - City

Frederick Quadros M | 021 0239 4119

Myrna Contreras M | 021 718 935

### Eastern

#### North Shore

Garth Clarke M | 021 170 4906

Anne Harley M | 021 124 5195

#### South Auckland

Margaret Quinn P | 07 868 1072

John Franks M | 027 246 0707

#### Te Tai Tokerau

June Paton P | 09 408 7930

Joe McMonagle M | 027 243 8659

### Western

Ingrid Purcell M | 022 361 1219

Paul Pau M |

### Religious

Rev Philip Jeffares OFM

M | 021 04104642

Sr Fatima Lemisio RSM

M | 021 084 29400

### Council of Priests

Fr Lio Rotor liorotor@hotmail.com

### Youth

Megan Rodrigues M | 021 0223 2679

Vacancy

### Māori

Eva Morunga M | 022 035 6950

Henare Te Wake P | 09-459 5993

### Ethnic

#### Filipino community

Gene Lopez M | 028 420 5468

#### Samoan community

Matalena Palamo M | 021 0275 1126

#### Tongan community

Ane Enosi M | 021 273 1993

### Dates for 2022

#### DPC Meeting Reports due.

26 March 12 March

21 May 7 May

20 August 6 August

26 November 12 November

Kia ora tatou katoa,

Due to the Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions of 2021 the 199th Meeting of the Auckland Diocesan Pastoral Council scheduled for 21 August was postponed. Given the length of Lockdown, Bishop Pat decided to convene the council via Zoom on the scheduled date of 13 November for a shorter meeting.

### Session One | Touching base – reconnecting – sharing the story of Long Lockdown

Each member talked of his/her personal experiences of 12 weeks of lockdown. Common themes were the yearn to gather with family and faith community, the importance of communication with growing appreciation, and skill in using technology such as Zoom, an awareness that many were struggling financially, emotionally and spiritually during this time.

### Session Two | Reports – these were brief oral snapshots of life in the Diocese

A snapshot of the diocese was presented with each delegate sharing insights of their faith community's life in these times. Important aspects were:

- Extended use of streaming for Mass, Rosary and prayer enabling local communities to gather and pray.
- Strong call on social support such as Vincent de Paul, local foodbanks.
- Use of phone trees to connect with those not comfortable or without access to internet.
- Stress when cannot gather which includes those who could have Mass under Level 2 but not have 'cuppa afterwards'
- High use of social media to connect, present and evangelise.
- Many youth groups leading way in technology presence
- Communities engaging with social agencies to support and run pop-up vaccination centres and general encouragement of vaccinations.

### Session Three | The COVID-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System) and Places of Worship

A robust scoping of views of the Council about how our Church buildings might open for Mass under the Protection Framework. At each step of the framework there are two streams of regulations for places of worship. Those that apply if a Vaccination Certificate (VC) is required for entry and where Vaccination Certificates are not required.

At the conclusion of the discussion Bishop Pat thanked councillors for their honest sharing and passion for inclusion and safety of all. He noted that going forward he had a broad appreciation of the feelings and hopes of a cross section of the Diocese which would help informed decisions.

James van Schie General manager was an observer for part of the meeting. He placed the conversation on Church buildings opening in context by quoting from *The Pandemic and the People of God* by Gerald Arbuckle (Orbis Press, 2021) where he quotes Pope Francis.

Like the disciples in Gospel, we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm and we find ourselves afraid and lost...The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits, and priorities... It lays bare all the pre-packaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our souls.

Like the disciples, we realise that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves alone; only by working together in faith will it be possible to come through the crisis. In Jesus Pope Francis reminds us "we have an anchor, by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder, by his cross we have been redeemed. We have hope "what we have now is a place of metanoia (conversion).