

Auckland Diocesan Pastoral Council Newsletter

Report from the meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council held 26 November 2022.



Notes from Bishop Steve

Bishop Steve made a number of comments during the meeting and gave a short report on key elements of diocesan pastoral life.

Notes from Bishop Steve

Bishop Steve presented a short reflection on what is happening in the diocese.

Our Bicultural Church

Manuel Beazley diocesan Vicar for Māori worked with the Council to explore Our Bicultural Church.

Multi-cultural experiences of the Church of Auckland

exploring with the Multi-cultural Church of Auckland through sharing of experiences and looking at the 2022 Church document *Pastoral Orientations on Intercultural Migrant Ministry*.

Life in the diocese

Delegates presented their reports noting what communities are proud of as well as challenges they face.

Appointments process

This year there has been an adapted version of the process.

Living in a toxic world

Bishop Steve noted that it is easy to become aware of all that is negative and desolate. Our challenge is therefore to see how new life appears and how we live in a positive mindset as individuals and the Church.

How do we encounter the stranger

Encouragement needs to be made to consider how we make the stranger welcome in our parishes. His wish is that the words of the prayers of the Mass are up on the screen to help make people welcome and support active participation

Royal Commission

Sexual abuse is inexcusable if it happens in Church or society [1 in 5 children abused in NZ currently before they reach 18]. The Church is attempting both to deal honestly and justly with survivors while continually looking to improve systems to ensure safe-guarding systems are reviewed and strengthened.

Reshaping diocesan structures

We need to be aware of the entire cost of having our many Mass centers within a small area. It costs a lot to have an underused building including but not limited to power, rates, insurance, maintenance etc. These issues are always emotional due to the role the Church and community play in our life.

Our Bicultural Church

Manuel called us to remember that those involved at Waitangi in 1840 no doubt dreamt of endless possibilities. In 2022, we can do the same, but we cannot repeat the failures of the past.

We need to find a new way. The Church can be a leader in this as it was in the beginning. The Christian Church in Aotearoa predates the Treaty and the formation of Government. We can again take the lead in having conversations with mutual respect as shown by Pompallier in the earliest times.

Multicultural experiences

Four members of the Council explored with the DPC the Multi-cultural Church of Auckland through sharing their own experiences, teaching us something of their religious cultural practices and looking at the 2022 Church document *Pastoral Orientations on Intercultural Migrant Ministry*. This was a very engaging and interesting session.

The documents calls the Church to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrant peoples; to undertake a journey together with them while being open to differences.

Members shared how they had experienced this welcome within their own migrant story

Hearing from the diocese

Delegates are deeply grateful to those communities who respond to requests for reports. This enables Bishop Steve through the DPC to listen to what is happening in the diocese including the hopes, aspirations and challenges and is an important aspect of being a Synodal community.

The DPC will meet on the following dates in 2023. Delegates will be seeking reports in order to submit them one week prior.

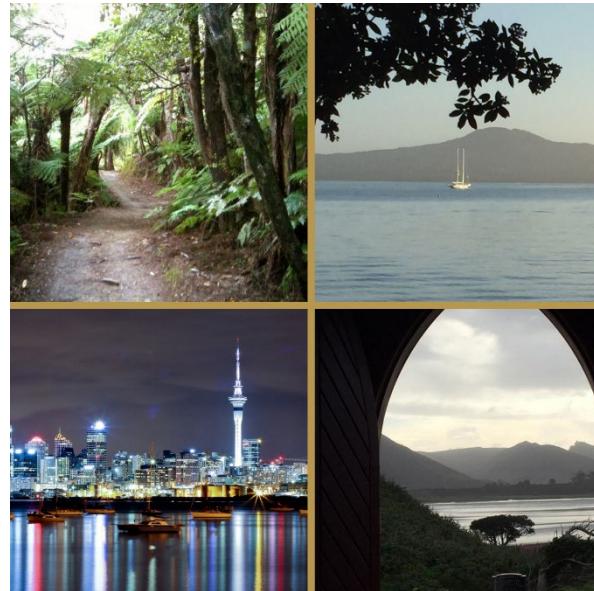
25 February
19 August

17 June
18 November

Diocesan Pastoral Council November 2022

Life in the diocese.

Headlines, themes, commonalities from reports presented by delegates.



Highlights

Due to the lifting of Covid restrictions there have been several gathering occasions across the diocese that communities have appreciated, including:

The first *World Youth Day* (Auckland) event for some years since the Covid. Youth attending were very alive and there were representatives from across the diocese. There was good engagement by the young people present.

The *Rise up Festival* a gathering of all Catholic ethnic groups in Auckland. On the Saturday people gathered to explore each other's food and enjoy a joyful concert. Each group also participated in the Mass through their cultural practices.

Mass counts

Overall, communities reported that the numbers attending Sunday Mass are less than pre-Covid times although they are slowly building up. There were a few notable exceptions where numbers are steady or slightly greater.

Hopes

Common hopes expressed by communities were that another Covid wave won't impact upon Church life. That we be fearless and courageous in moving forward without fear. That the Synod on Synodality continues to transform and reform our Church into one that is life giving, meaningful and transparent.