



Rise Up & Shine Festival

2025 Annual Report



Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hāhi Katorika



Reshaping
Diocese of Auckland



HIGHLIGHTS



Bishop Steve with Pope Leo



De La Salle students in the waiata category of the Pompallier Shield



A Night at The Conclave



Clergy dive into Reshaping



As Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, Bishop Steve gifted and blessed YOUCAT for Year 7 and DOCAT for Year 8 students to inspire faith and action

LETTER FROM

Bishop Steve Lowe

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The front page of this 2025 Annual Report features some of our young people from the Kiribati community, one of the vibrant ethnic groups that bring colour and life to our Diocese in Auckland. 2025 also saw the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo XIV. We live in a changing Church, in the midst of a changing world.

It is in this changing world that we are invited to share in the mission of Jesus. We are invited to share the Good News, and be the Good News to those around us. It is by sharing our faith, our hope and our love in this way that the Risen Lord, by the power of his Holy Spirit, reshapes us.

As you read the 2025 Annual Report, and in particular, the written reports, I hope you will be heartened by the work of so many in our Diocese as they live out their commitment to the mission of Jesus entrusted to us. As you look at the financial data, look beyond to the generosity of so many people, that enables and supports the work of mission for the people who live within our Diocesan boundaries.

As you read you will see there is much to be grateful for. Once again, I sincerely thank you all for all you do to support the life and mission of the Church here in Auckland in so many diverse ways. The diversity of

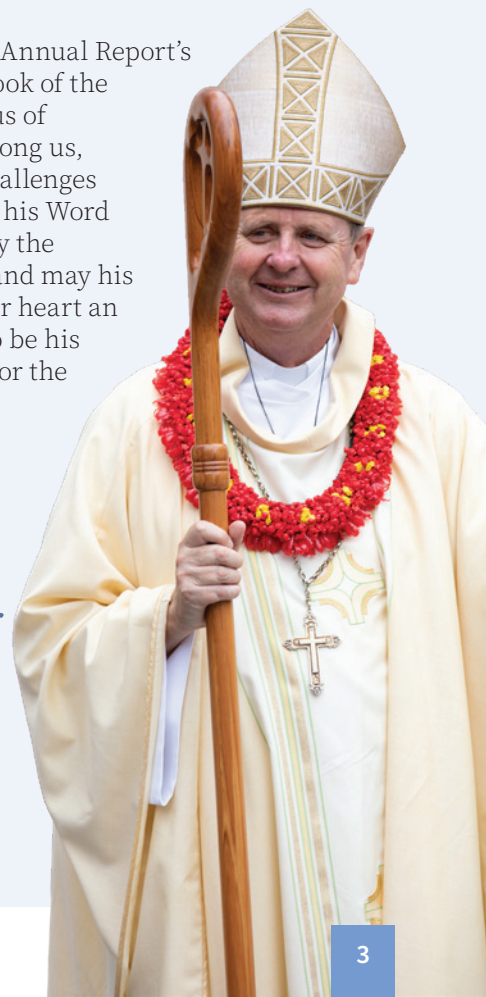
life and service in the Diocese is an incredible joy to behold. At the same time, you might realise there is so much more we could be doing. I invite you to be part of that.

In the middle of this Annual Report's cover photo, is the Book of the Gospels. It reminds us of Christ's presence among us, and his Word that challenges and inspires us. May his Word take flesh in you, may the Christ reshape you, and may his Spirit enflame in your heart an even deeper desire to be his missionary disciple for the life of the world.

Yours faithfully in
Christ the Good
Shepherd

+ *Steve Lowe.*

✠ STEVE LOWE
Bishop of Auckland



Advancing Religion / Community building

- On Pentecost Sunday 2025, Bishop Steve launched Reshaping, a synodal process inviting the Diocese to renew its life for mission.
- Bishop Steve Speaks, a weekly reflection, was launched on CDA YouTube.
- Deacon Ben Pōmare was welcomed as Pou Whirinaki in the Hokianga.
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart community were formally welcomed to mission in the Far North.
- Seven new permanent deacons were ordained for Auckland Diocese.
- Governance was strengthened for ethnic chaplaincies.
- Year of Jubilee Celebrations recognised ordinary saints we call volunteers.
- Renovations at Star of the Sea Parish (Howick), Presbytery renovations (Helensville).

Advancing Education / Growing in faith

- A new Local Youth Minister initiative working across a secondary school and Parish increased discipleship opportunities for students.
- Catholic Schools' Youth Ministry International programme grew peer ministry, and formed young disciples in four of our Primary Schools.
- Tō Tātou Whakapono rollout advanced in schools, with strengthened leadership formation for principals and DRs.
- Major school developments were completed, including De La Salle College's new teaching and wellness facilities, a renewal of teaching spaces at St Joseph's Otahuhu Parish Primary School, and Stage 2 of St Ignatius College, Drury.
- Financial assistance, bursaries and a new scholarship supported families in Catholic education.

Relieving Poverty / Outreach

- A hui brought together representatives of 20 social services agencies connected to the Catholic Church.
- The Catholic Caring Foundation funded 60+ frontline agencies responding to heightened need.
- Catholic Social Services provided counselling and social work for over 3,500 people.
- Chaplains offered vital pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, meeting rising demand.
- The Justice & Peace Office advocated against the Treaty of Waitangi Principles Bill.
- Monte Cecilia Housing Trust supported more than 5,000 people with housing stability and family support.
- De Paul House rehoused families, expanded food support, and commenced new social housing.

TABLE OF TOP-LEVEL STATISTICS

182,691

Catholics

(2023 Census)



Parishes

68



15
Ethnic Chaplaincies



Catholic Charities

7



Schools

42

Primary

16

Secondary

10 Bishop-owned,
6 Religious Order-owned



Students

10,306

Primary

14,910

Secondary

25,216

Total



Ethnicity of Students

34%

European/Pakeha

23%

Asian

11%

Māori

4%

Other

28%

Pacific





GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

James van Schie

2025 continued to see a pattern of quiet growth across the Diocese, alongside ongoing pressures that require careful stewardship and advocacy.

There was an 8% increase in Mass attendance in 2025, following a 10% increase in the previous year. This growth substantially exceeds Auckland's population growth of around 1% over the same period. Record numbers of people continue to join the Church, with an additional Rite of Election to accommodate the large number of Catechumens and Candidates in 2026.

Holy Cross Seminary, the national Catholic Seminary for the formation of priests, is now full. We will require a new building in 2027 should there be any further applicants accepted this year. Our Tertiary Chaplaincy events are engaging numbers we have not seen in working memory. Baptisms increased by 23% in 2025. The very real crisis happening in our world is also underpinned by a crisis in meaning, and many believe that this is leading to a renewed curiosity in Christianity.



Holy Cross Seminary – 2026 seminarians and staff

Infrastructure update

Warm congratulations to the many Parishes which completed significant building and property projects during 2025. This year saw the successful delivery of church and liturgical upgrades, Parish centre and hall refurbishments, presbytery improvements, and essential remedial and compliance works. The Diocese thanks Parish Priests, Parish Pastoral Councils and Committees, volunteers and contractors, for their leadership, perseverance and commitment in delivering these projects for the benefit of their Parish communities.

Among the many projects completed was re-development of a Parish Centre for the Star of the Sea Parish, Howick. The former presbytery was converted into a Parish Centre in 1987 and, for nearly



Blessing of renewed Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Centre, August 2025



James van Schie with Parish Priest Fr Andrew Mathew during the demolition of the destroyed church.

four decades, served as the Parish's main gathering space and operational hub, despite never being properly fitted out. After many unrealised attempts to upgrade it, a Parish-led fundraising campaign, launched in September 2024, raised over \$400,000, enabling a debt-free renovation. With works now complete, the rejuvenated and much-loved Parish Centre was blessed and reopened by Bishop Steve in August, renewed and fit for mission for generations to come through the generosity of parishioners.

2025 was also a challenging year, with a deliberately lit fire destroying the church at St Mary's Parish Avondale. A statue of Mary, some precious Māori carvings, and a celtic cross were all that survived the blaze. Since that time, insurance claims have been actively progressed, with all claims now settled, and restoration of the old historic wooden church underway to provide a temporary worship space while plans are firmed up on the long-term future. I have been struck by how resilient the community have been in the face of adversity.

From an education perspective, a wide range of projects were delivered across the network, with a



Bishop Peter Brown blesses and opens De La Salle College's new three-storey building

strong focus on supporting growth in the South and West of Auckland. In the South, major investments included the completion of the De La Salle College redevelopment, replacing 19 end-of-life classrooms with new teaching, health and wellness facilities, alongside upgrades at St Joseph's Primary, Otahuhu, and Stage 2 of St Ignatius College, Drury. In the West, St Dominic's College is progressing through a major staged redevelopment, with Stage 1 completed and Stage 2 underway, while Liston College secured approval to increase its maximum roll to 900 students, supported by new classrooms and further planned facilities. A classroom replacement project was also completed at Holy Cross Primary, Henderson.

The cost of accessing Catholic education remains a significant concern for the Bishop, amidst ballooning costs that families face in everything from fuel to

Council rates to everyday essentials. In response, we continue to prioritise practical support. During 2025, 494 students were assisted through the Diocese's financial assistance scheme, and 15 Reuben O'Neill Bursaries were awarded to support students with demonstrated need and potential.

We are also pleased to be preparing for the launch of the Roger Shalfoon Scholarship, a new and prestigious award. It will help promising young women and men with the costs of Catholic education, with thanks to a very generous benefactor, the late Mr Roger Shalfoon.

There are also promising policy signals from the Government. In July, the Minister for Education announced the State Integrated Growth Initiative (SIGI), committing almost \$30 million over four years in the 2025/26 Budget to support growth in

the State-integrated school sector. The Diocese has applied to access this funding to support growth at Liston College, and we are encouraged by the signal this sends about renewed recognition of the pressures facing integrated school proprietors.

During the year, the Bishop approved De Paul House's plan for a housing development in Birkdale. The project will deliver homes for vulnerable families transitioning from homelessness, responding to the significant housing need across Auckland. The development is underpinned by Ministry of Housing and Urban Development support.

Consolidated Financial Performance

The Diocese's consolidated financial results for the year ended 31 December 2025 are very comparable to 2024, reflecting a year of operational stability and disciplined stewardship of resources in support of mission.

Across the Group, core operating revenues and expenses remained largely unchanged year on year. Government and community grants, property income, donations and other operating revenue were stable, as were employee costs, property costs, depreciation and other operating expenses. This consistency reflects both the maturity of the Diocese's operating base, and the fact that the majority of our income is tagged for specific purposes and must be applied accordingly.

Two items account for the main differences between the 2025 and 2024 results. Firstly, the Group recognised an accounting profit of approximately \$2.0 million from the sale of residential property. This was a one-off transaction, and reflects the Diocese's ongoing approach of reviewing and, where appropriate, repurposing or divesting assets that no longer serve current or future mission needs.

Secondly, the movement in the fair value of investments was \$4.9 million in 2025, compared with \$11.0 million in 2024. This figure represents a point-in-time valuation at balance date within a very long-term investment strategy, rather than a realised or short-term outcome. Global markets were highly volatile during the year, with sharp swings driven by, among other things, reactions to political announcements and heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Against this backdrop, the Diocese's investment portfolio continued to be managed prudently, with a focus on long-term capital preservation, diversification, and ethical investment principles.

After taking these factors into account, the Diocese recorded a reported surplus for the year of \$28.7 million. As I explained in last year's annual report, this result is largely driven by the accounting treatment for items like school property maintenance grants, where income is fully recognised in the year in which it is received, while the associated capital expenditure is depreciated over many years. These results should therefore be read alongside the full financial statements and accompanying notes.

I offer my sincere thanks to our Priests, parishioners, parents, volunteers and staff for the dedication and faithfulness they bring to the life of the Diocese. The growth and stability reflected this year are the fruit of countless acts of service, often unseen, across our Parishes, schools, agencies and offices. Together, through pastoral leadership, generous service, and trust in each other, you embody a Church that serves faithfully, and remains focused on its mission.

JAMES VAN SCHIE

General Manager – Catholic Diocese of Auckland

STORIES OF HOPE

When a Pantry is Packed with Love

On 14 March, St Michael's Remuera Vinnies team packed food parcels "for families in need" at St Vincent de Paul. One small Saturday of service becomes meals on dozens of tables — and a reminder that the Eucharist continues after the dismissal.



Come as You Are

In Advent, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Onehunga, offered a three-day healing retreat — praise and worship, a talk on "Restoration in Christ", and opportunities for Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. The invitation was simple and strong: *Come as you are.* Many did — and left lighter.



Build and Beyond

St Joseph's Parish, Takapuna, hosted its second Belong & Build Expo on 30 June after the 10:30am Mass, inviting parishioners to discover ministries and community groups. Twenty-five ministries participated, drawing more than 170 sign-ups. The joyful event helped newcomers and long-time members take next steps in service, belonging and mission.



Leading with Faith: Ako in Action for Principals

Produced by Daniel Pepper, Principal at St Dominic's Primary, Blockhouse Bay, Ako in Action was a podcast series equipping Catholic Principals and leaders with local, practical insight, such as transitioning into Catholic leadership, building Parish-school mission partnerships, and strengthening internal review processes. Find it on Spotify.



Hope in Every Box: Hibiscus Coast Parish Christmas Hampers

Hibiscus Coast Parish's Christmas Hamper initiative brought practical love to families. In 2025, parishioners donated items that Parish volunteers turned into 130 beautifully prepared hampers for Women's Refuge and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Each hamper provided hope, dignity, and cheer for carers and families across the Coast.



Alive in Mission: Divine Renovation at St Patrick's Pukekohe

St Patrick's Parish, Pukekohe, is embracing Divine Renovation – shifting from maintenance to mission through evangelisation (including OCIC, OCIA), Holy Spirit-led prayer, and shared leadership. The Parish uses donor-funded coaching from Divine Renovation Australasia, and practical onramps like Alpha, Passionist Families, Praise and Worship, and growing youth groups. Through this the Parish clarifies



Cheryl and Daniel with Fr James Mallon from Divine Renovation Canada

vision, prioritises Sunday, empowers volunteers (10 faith formation programmes), and welcomes seekers into discipleship, strengthening families and community life across Franklin.

Tertiary Students

The Tertiary Chaplaincy (ACTC) and Tertiary Student Club (ACTS) experienced a year of considerable growth in 2025. Offering the sacraments and a range of discipleship and social activities, the Catholic community at University of Auckland increased from 50 registered members to approximately 300 by the end of the academic year. Happily, ACTC and ACTS also started a new chapter at the Auckland University of Technology.



Pearls from the Safeguarding Office

We are encouraged to see safeguarding lived out through the thoughtful actions of St Michael's Parish, Remuera, who are connecting with other Christian churches in their local area to support one another in keeping communities safe.

When safeguarding concerns arise, such as an individual committing an offence on Church premises, relevant information is shared so that neighbouring churches can remain aware, prepared, and vigilant. This spirit of cooperation reflects a shared commitment to care, responsibility, and protection, reminding us that safeguarding is a collective ministry that reaches beyond denominational boundaries for the wellbeing of our Catholic communities and the wider community we serve.



Pilgrims of Hope

“Hope does not disappoint.” (Rom 5:5)
Jubilee Year of Hope 2025

In proclaiming 2025 as the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis called the Church to be pilgrims of hope—people who begin again with trust in the Lord and walk together in mission. This theme shaped every part of Diocesan life across the Auckland Diocese: worship, evangelisation, Māori pastoral care, education, social outreach, and the early steps of the Reshaping journey. Throughout the year, communities gathered to pray, learn, celebrate faith, and respond to the needs of people who are vulnerable. The Good Friday Stations of the Cross,

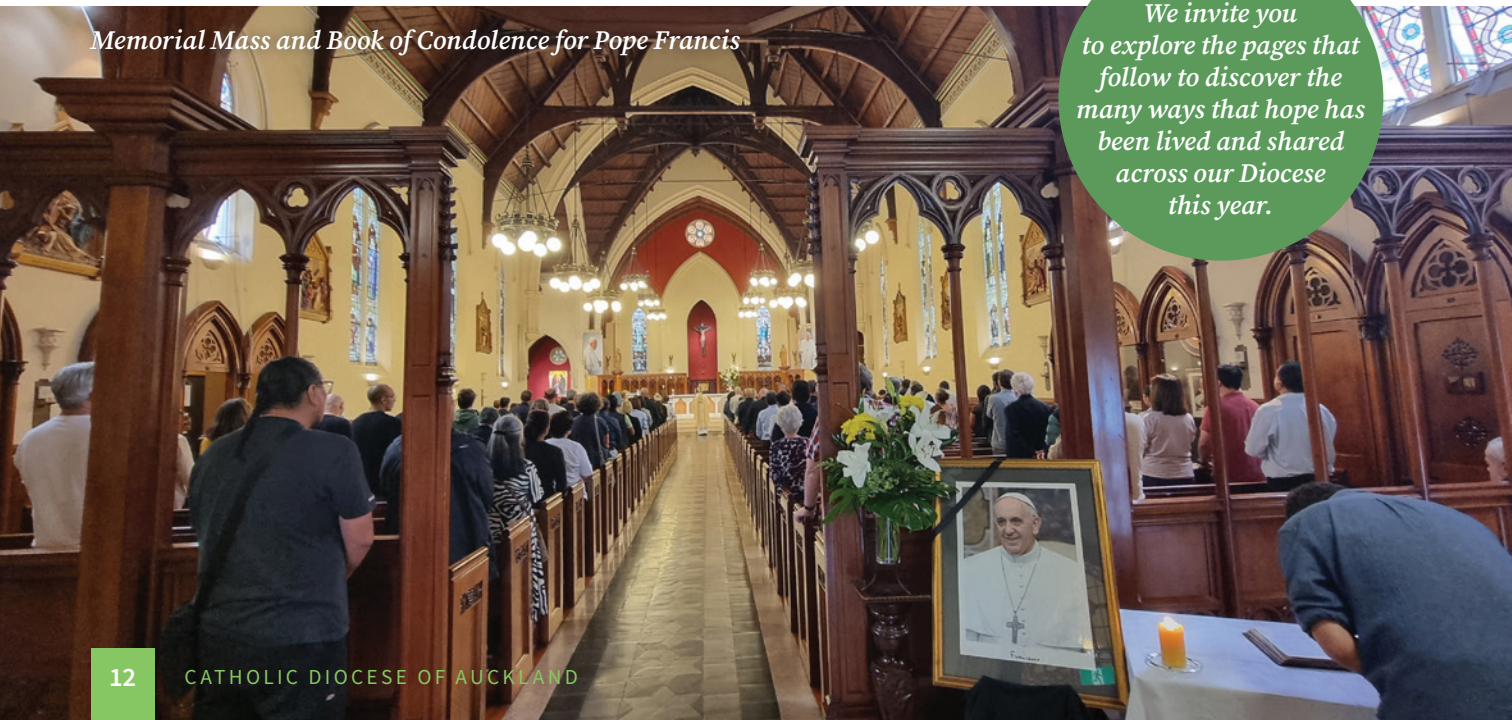
formation sessions for the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and large Diocesan events such as “A Night at the Conclave” provided opportunities to deepen faith and community connection. School staff were blessed in a Dedication Mass, and Bishop Steve gifted YOUCAT and DOCAT texts to Years 7 and 8 students. Our social outreach apostolates continued supporting people in need. These moments reflected a shared commitment to hope-filled discipleship.



For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope.

POPE FRANCIS

Memorial Mass and Book of Condolence for Pope Francis



We invite you to explore the pages that follow to discover the many ways that hope has been lived and shared across our Diocese this year.



Living Hope — Focus On Parishes

Hope in Te Ao Māori — Māori Pastoral Care

Māori Catholic life in 2025 was marked by leadership, belonging, and renewal. Deacon Ben Pōmare was welcomed home to the Hokianga as Pou Whirinaki, taking up stewardship of St Mary's Parish, Motutī, and the resting place of Bishop Pompallier. Katekita formation continued to grow, and Te Kamaka presentations expanded across schools, deepening understanding of what it means to be both authentically Māori and Catholic. The establishment of Te Waka o Hāto Petera Wāwāhi Ara represented a significant step in restoring the mauri of the Hāto Petera site. Nineteen communities celebrated regular Miha Māori, with at least seven celebrated each weekend. New resources in te reo supported fuller participation.



The ordination of Fr Hemi Waerengaahika Ropata SM was another significant moment, marked with waiata, haka, and celebration of a vocation shaped by Māori heritage and deep faith.

Hope Made Visible in Worship & Community Life

The Pastoral Services Group (PSG) supported parishes through retreats, workshops, marriage preparation, youth leadership, safeguarding training, and liturgical formation. One highlight was the Rite of Election at the Cathedral, where catechumens and candidates were formally welcomed as they prepared for the Easter sacraments. International speaker David Wells offered formation on living in a synodal Church, inspiring Parish leaders to embrace their role as Pilgrims of Hope. Across the year, thousands engaged with PSG events and digital resources, contributing to strengthened Parish life and formation.

The 60th anniversary celebration of Nostra Aetate (“In Our Times”) was quietly attended in the Auckland Diocese in October 2025. Issued by Pope Paul VI at the Second Vatican Council in 1965, it signalled a major shift in Catholic relations with other religions, affirming shared human origins, respect for truth



and holiness beyond Christianity, and promoting interreligious dialogue as witness to the Gospel of faith.

STATISTICS:

6879	People attended PSG-facilitated events
2 million	Digital reach (number of people who saw our digital content)
175	Home visits by Pastoral worker to the Deaf volunteers supporting PSG ministries
29	Couples gave 1994 hours of support to engaged couples in their marriage preparation
123	People served with the Ministries to Young People Team for 1587 hours
16	Alpha courses, including 3 for young people
130	Couples completed Marriage Education courses

Chaplaincies and Communities

Migrant chaplaincies continued to thrive, supported by the introduction of a new financial and legal framework ensuring stronger governance. By late 2025, nearly all chaplaincies completed charity registration. The Rise Up and Shine Migrant Festival gathered over a dozen communities for a weekend celebrating culture, food, music, and faith.





Deaf Community gather for Mass at Good Shepherd Parish Balmoral.

The Catholic Deaf Community remained a vibrant presence, offering NZSL-accessible liturgies, online NZSL scripture, and pastoral care. The Diocese expanded access to scripture by uploading daily Gospel readings in NZSL through its online platforms, to support Deaf Catholics in prayer and formation. Weekly internal sign language classes at the Pompallier Centre strengthened understanding and inclusion.

The G.I.F.T. (Growth in Faith Together) community continued its longstanding ministry supporting people with intellectual disabilities. Regular gatherings at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre, retreats, Masses, and celebrations, fostered a strong sense of belonging and spiritual growth. Their 2025 programme emphasised the joy of Jesus in everyday



G.I.F.T. Picnic

life; through sharing, laughter, prayer, singing, cooking, creativity and hope.

A Hard Moment Held in Hope — St Mary’s Avondale

A devastating fire at St Mary’s Church, Avondale, brought grief, but also deep solidarity. A temporary chapel was established, and outdoor Masses took place when possible. The Parish’s resilience became a powerful witness to hope.



St Mary’s Parish Avondale parishioners gather for open-air Sunday Masses.

Hope Among Our Young People

Young people stepped forward in faith and leadership. Events included Summit Youth Leaders Weekend, Masterclass workshops, World Youth Day Auckland, and a renewed monthly Upper Room. Tū Kahikatea Awards were presented to leaders recognised for their outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to the Church’s mission through collaboration, faith, and community-building.

A youth hui used Spiritual Conversations – a prayerful process that deepens awareness of the Holy Spirit’s presence in shared discernment – to discern hopes for the future.

Read about how a new Local Youth Minister initiative supported small-group discipleship and developed young people in our Reshaping case studies, later in this report.

STATISTICS:

3841	Secondary school students impacted by NET retreats
61	NET retreat days
85%	Of students said they wanted to engage more with their faith after their retreat day
372	Young people attended Life Teen Summer Camp
111	Youth Ministry events delivered by the pilot Local Youth Minister



World Youth Day — Auckland (Jubilee of Youth)



Recipients of Tū Kahikatea Awards

Hope in Vocations

Seven new seminarians began formation in 2025, bringing the total discerning for a priestly vocation for the Auckland Diocese to eleven. We celebrated the ordination of Fr Ryan Sy in January 2026.

Seven permanent deacons were ordained, and seven started in formation. A new community of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart arrived from Vietnam to serve across several Parishes in the Te Tai Tokerau region in the north.



Seven men ordained as permanent deacons at St Patrick's Cathedral.



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart community were formally welcomed at Tōtara Point in January 2026.

Forming Hope — Focus on Catholic Schools

Hope in Learning

The Education team focused on formation, curriculum development and leadership support. Beginning Principals received targeted mentoring. Religious Education Advisors continued implementing Tō Tātou Whakapono, completing rollout for Years 5–6 and preparing for Years 7–8 in 2026.

Directors of Religious Studies from our primary and secondary schools made pilgrimages to historic northern sites, deepening their understanding of the Catholic whakapapa of Aotearoa New Zealand.

CSYMI (Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International) formed young leaders by guiding Year 6 students from four primary schools through encounter retreats and a two-term discipleship pathway, fostering confident peer ministers who will continue the programme as it expands in 2026. Read more in the Reshaping case studies later in this annual report.



Auckland Primary DRSS at St Mary's Church, Motuti

Sharing Hope — Focus on Reaching Out

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust remained focused on the fundamentals of empowering families to live well, supporting 5055 people—including almost 3000 children—during a time of rising living costs and reduced emergency housing pathways. Whānau Support Coordinators assisted with budgeting, navigating Government systems, and securing longterm accommodation, with 78% of tenants stating that their housing situation with Monte Cecilia Housing Trust made them feel more in control of their lives. Parishes, schools, and donors continued to uphold Monte Cecilia's mission to provide dignity, stability, and hope for families in need.



The Onehunga Team coming together to get donated Christmas presents to Monte Cecilia Housing Trust families.



De Paul House

Marking 40 years of service, De Paul House continued supporting families and seniors facing homelessness and poverty. Over 1000 housing and support enquiries were received. They rehoused 159 families and seniors, supporting 624 adults and children to safe, warm and permanent homes. Food insecurity needs increased significantly, with 620 parcels distributed (more than double on 2024). The Community Learning Centre and Playgroup strengthened family resilience.

Last year we committed to expanding our social housing portfolio, and we are pleased to report that construction has begun on our first purpose-built homes for families and seniors — a development grounded not in commercial aims but in community need.

We are grateful for the continued support of our volunteers, the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, North Shore Parishes, and local schools; together we are not just providing services but sharing hope.

Hope that Serves

In March Bishop Steve hosted leaders from nearly 20 Catholic-connected agencies, to reflect on social needs and explore collaborative approaches for the future. This strengthened relationships and clarified shared mission priorities.

Catholic Caring Foundation

Each year, the Catholic Caring Foundation supports more than 60 frontline agencies across the Auckland Diocese — from the Far North through to the south of Auckland — helping families facing poverty, hunger, housing instability and crisis. Through grants, the Foundation strengthens grassroots organisations supporting food banks, transitional housing, family counselling, youth programmes, and refuge for women and children experiencing violence.

In 2025, the need was greater than ever, with the Foundation receiving the highest number of grant applications in its 37-year history, reflecting the ongoing pressures of the cost-of-living crisis and rising homelessness. Agencies reported growing demand for foodbanks, wraparound care, and emergency support, as families struggled to meet basic needs.

Thanks to generous donors, The Tindall Foundation, philanthropic trusts, Parishes and schools, the Foundation continues to give hope where it is needed most — ensuring families and communities can access support with dignity, compassion, and practical care.

Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services recorded over 3500 contacts in providing essential counselling, social work and family violence support to families and individuals facing social challenges – including

housing instability, financial hardship, mental health challenges, trauma, family violence and relationship challenges. These needs have been intensified by wider national trends, including rising unemployment, increased welfare dependence, housing pressures, and a significant growth in food insecurity, resulting in increased complexity of needs within the community, and highlighting the importance of compassionate responses that are grounded in social justice, during an already challenging time for many.

Justice & Peace

The Catholic Social Services hui in Matakana strengthened a combined Diocese approach, and refined the Justice & Peace mandate toward greater collaboration and strategic growth. Public advocacy expanded significantly, with twelve Parliamentary and policy submissions addressing Te Tiriti justice, regulatory standards, arms legislation, pay equity, and the wellbeing of vulnerable communities, ensuring Catholic Social Teaching (CST) was represented in national dialogue. A major milestone was presenting the Church's opposition to the Treaty

Principles Bill, contributing to its defeat in April. Diocesan alignment increased, with a well-received Commission CST workshop at the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Wider engagement continued through the Season of Creation, Caritas Aotearoa Social Justice Week, and the 'Peace Lamp' initiative.

Prison Ministry and Hospital Outreach

Chaplaincy teams remained a vital pastoral presence across hospitals and prisons in 2025, offering prayer, spiritual support, and compassionate accompaniment to patients, inmates, whānau and staff. Their work included regular bedside visits, sacramental ministry, end-of-life support, and providing a listening presence for those experiencing isolation or distress. Demand for pastoral care continued to grow, and a well-attended hospital chaplain volunteer information seminar signalled strong community interest in serving those in vulnerable moments. In prisons, chaplains provided faith-based programmes, one-to-one pastoral support, and liturgies that helped foster hope, dignity and connection for men and women seeking strength and meaning in challenging circumstances.



National gathering of hospital and prison Chaplains

Revitalising Hope — Reshaping for This Time

Walking Together — Our Reshaping Journey

On Pentecost Sunday 2025, Bishop Steve launched Reshaping, a synodal process inviting the Diocese to renew its life for mission. He called each Parish to discern how best to serve the Gospel in a rapidly changing Auckland.

Early engagement with clergy and the Diocesan Pastoral Council was encouraging. In November, more than 100 parishioners from St Heliers, Glendowie and Orakei gathered for their first Reshaping Our Future spiritual conversation. Key themes identified included the centrality of faith and community, the importance of inclusivity, valuing cultural diversity, and the need to preserve treasured spiritual practices.



Reshaping hui with attendees from St Heliers and Glendowie – November 2025

Reshaping is not simply a restructure; it is a conversion of heart and mission — an invitation to examine our habits, structures and priorities in the light of the Gospel, both for today's world and for the future.

Communications were also part of Reshaping in 2025: NZ Catholic relaunched as a monthly e-newsletter; and the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference launched CathNews and the Catholic Kiwi Podcast.



NZ CATHOLIC



CATHNEWS



CATHOLIC KIW
PODCAST

Looking Back with Gratitude, Forward in Hope

Even hard moments, like the Avondale fire, revealed the strength of faith and community. The year included new deacons and seminarians, strengthened Parishes, catechist and teacher formation, and ministries that accompanied people who are sick or imprisoned, young people, and the Deaf community. As Reshaping continues, we seek to be ever more mission-ready—Pilgrims of Hope, together

At the Mass concluding the Jubilee Year of Hope, Bishop Steve reminded us that the three wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This report highlights just a few of the gifts shared across our Diocese this year. Bishop Steve invited each of us to reflect on the gifts we bring. Whatever your gifts, we give thanks for the ways you share them for the mission of our Diocese.

Local Youth Minister Pilot Sparks Growth in Young Disciples

In 2025, the Catholic Diocese of Auckland launched its first Local Youth Minister (LYM) pilot, placing Bridgette Carne in a unique partnership between St Patrick's Parish in Pukekohe and St Ignatius of Loyola College in Drury. What began as a small scale trial has quickly become one of the most encouraging developments in youth discipleship across the Diocese.

Bridgette's presence strengthened the bridge between school and Parish life, offering young people consistent accompaniment, mentoring, and opportunities to grow in their faith beyond one-off retreat experiences. Within just 12 months, the pilot saw four discipleship ministries launched, when only two had originally been anticipated. Momentum has continued to build, with three additional small group leaders in training and new groups set to begin in early 2026.

The fruits of this ministry have been evident, not only in numbers but in renewed confidence and engagement among young people. Students who first encountered Christ through school retreats were able to step into ongoing small-group discipleship, something many had not previously experienced. Bridgette's relational approach, her presence on campus, and her integration within the Parish enabled faith to be nurtured week by week.

The success of this pilot has exceeded expectations, prompting both the school and Parish to joyfully

recommit for a second year, doubling their financial contribution to help sustain the role. Their partnership has become a model of what is possible when local communities invest in forming young missionary disciples.

What began with a single Local Youth Minister in 2025 is now set to grow into five LYM placements in 2026, significantly strengthening youth ministry across the Diocese, with a continued focus on small-group discipleship. Local Youth Ministers will serve in Drury/Pukekohe, Whangārei, Flat Bush, Balmoral/Hillsborough, and Henderson, expanding the reach of this transformative model, and marking a hopeful new chapter for youth ministry in the Diocese.



Discipleship group at St Ignatius of Loyola College, Drury

Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International: Forming Young Disciples in Our Primary Schools

In 2025, four Auckland primary schools—Holy Trinity Takanini, Holy Cross Papatoetoe, St Mary’s Ellerslie, and St Mary’s Papakura—took part in the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI) Junior programme, marking an energising step forward in youth formation across the Diocese.

The journey began with a series of one-day “Journey with Jesus” encounter retreats for Year 6 students. Led by Sam Brebner (Manager – Ministries to Young People), and supported by senior CSYMI students from Sancta Maria College, the retreats invited students to reflect deeply on their personal relationship with Christ through prayer, reflection, and interactive activities.

From these retreat days, interested students were invited into a two-term formation pathway, focused on prayer, journalling, small-group sharing, and the basics of peer ministry. Teachers from each school

accompanied their groups, providing encouragement and modelling the rhythms of Christian discipleship.

The response was inspiring. In some schools, up to 20 students committed to the programme, growing in confidence as young leaders of faith. By the second half of the year, these students were actively leading prayer, mini-retreats, and school assemblies for younger peers—becoming visible witnesses of faith within their own school communities. Principals and teachers alike commented on the maturity, joy, and spiritual growth emerging among their Year 6 leaders.

In 2026, the initiative will expand. All four original schools will continue with new cohorts of students, and Sancta Maria Primary, Flat Bush, will join the programme. Once again, Sam Brebner will lead the retreats, with support from the committed senior CSYMI team at Sancta Maria College.

Students at Journey with Jesus retreat





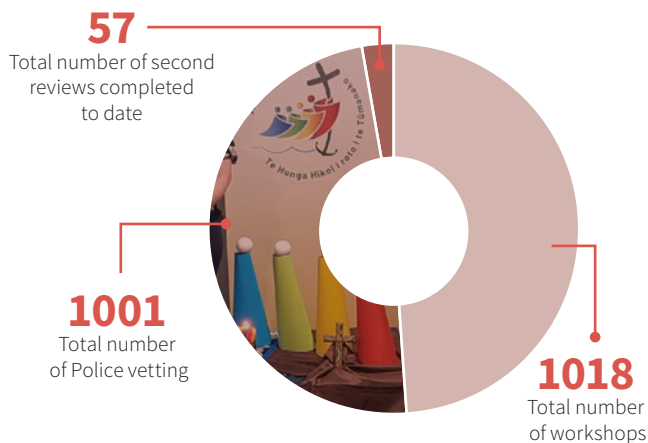
Parish Safeguarding Contacts Retreat

Strengthening Safeguarding Across the Diocese

In 2025, the Diocese achieved significant progress in embedding a strong safeguarding culture across Parishes, communities, and ministries. Participation in safeguarding formation continued to grow, supported by increasing online access and multilingual workshops that broadened reach across diverse communities. Police-vetting activity rose substantially, with sustained nil-disclosure months later in the year, reflecting strengthened compliance and awareness of safeguarding expectations.

Parish safeguarding reviews showed marked advancement, with most Parishes progressing beyond Development and many entering the Growth stage, alongside the first emerging examples of Maturity and Renewal. This momentum was further reinforced by a successful National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) review, confirming that Diocesan safeguarding systems and processes are robust, well-governed, and aligned with national standards.

Overall, 2025 was a year of meaningful cultural shift, increased openness, and strengthened accountability—demonstrating the Diocese’s ongoing commitment to ensuring safe, respectful, and protective environments for all.



Your Legacy of Faith

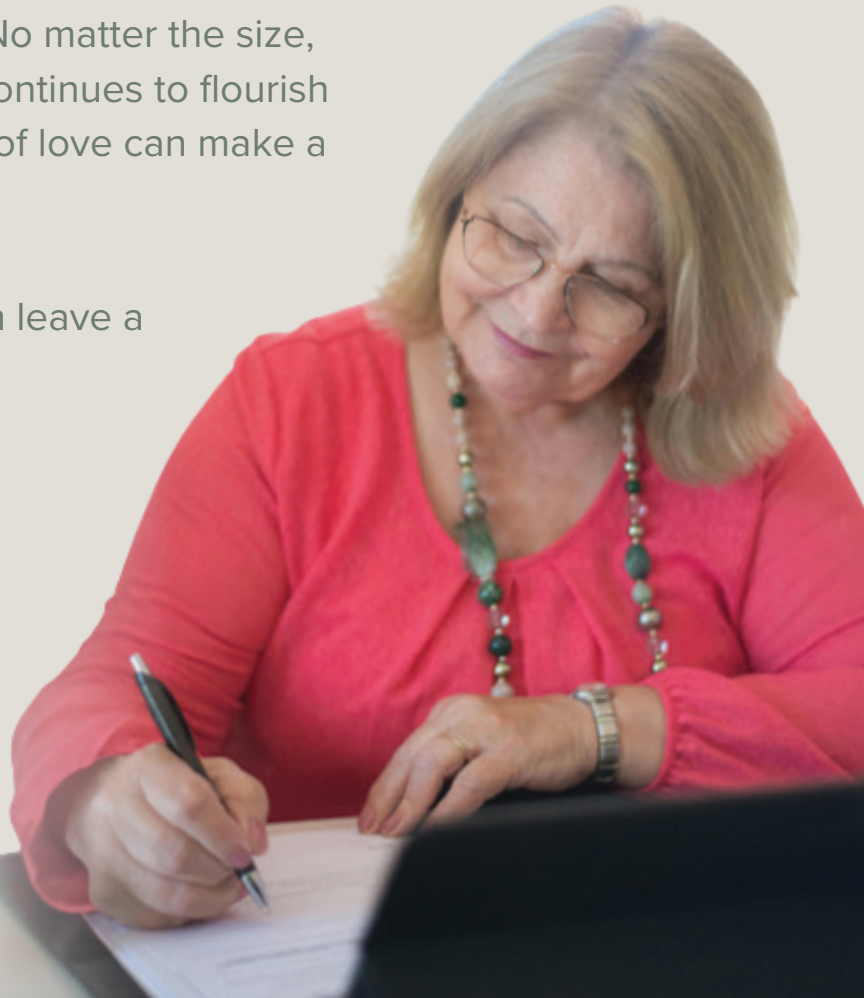
REMEMBERING THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL



By leaving a gift in your Will to the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, you help strengthen the Church's mission for generations to come. Your generosity supports Parishes, clergy, youth ministries, Catholic education, and vital outreach programmes. No matter the size, your bequest ensures that faith continues to flourish in our communities. A simple act of love can make a profound difference.

To learn more about how you can leave a gift in your Will, contact us today.

giving@cda.org.nz



Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Consolidated	
	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
REVENUE		
Grants-government, social housing and others	47,744	48,256
Property revenue	9,801	9,858
Donations	7,958	7,455
Other exchange revenue	4,363	1,961
Total revenue	69,866	67,530
EXPENSES		
Employee costs	(14,102)	(13,862)
Property costs	(26,107)	(26,392)
Depreciation and amortisation	(10,207)	(9,671)
Other expenses	(10,181)	(10,590)
Total expenses	(60,597)	(60,515)
Surplus before net financing income	9,269	7,015
Finance income	24,464	24,553
Finance costs	(9,889)	(9,599)
Net finance income	14,575	14,954
Movement in fair value of investments	4,851	10,990
Surplus for the period	28,695	32,959

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Consolidated	
	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	16,600	18,029
Receivables	2,381	2,678
Investments - managed funds	223,135	178,391
Term deposits	19,338	57,314
Non current asset held for sale	-	24,613
Loans and other receivables	80,613	70,030
Property, plant and equipment	437,359	385,509
Intangibles	19	42
Investments - other	-	300
TOTAL ASSETS	779,445	736,906
LIABILITIES		
Payables	8,517	4,598
Depositors funds	41,337	37,433
Deferred revenue	4,436	5,732
Related Parties Funds Held on behalf	31,058	31,617
Borrowings	116,088	108,212
TOTAL LIABILITIES	201,436	187,592
NET ASSETS	578,009	549,314
EQUITY		
Reserves	24,684	21,486
Retained earnings	553,325	527,828
TOTAL EQUITY	578,009	549,314



Rite of Election



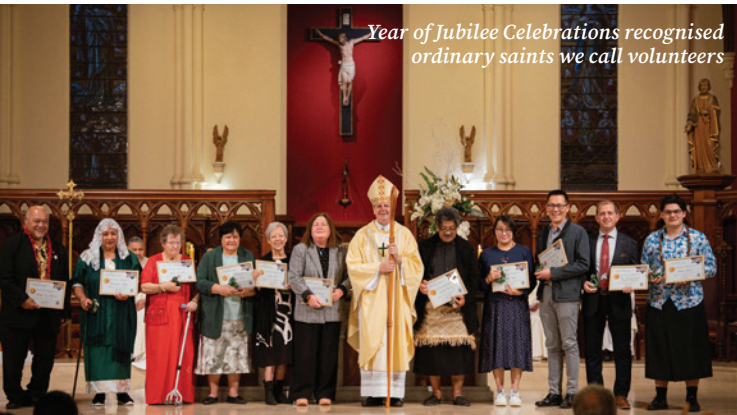
Schools Dedication Mass



RCIA Network Meeting



Youth Leaders Commissioning Mass



Year of Jubilee Celebrations recognised ordinary saints we call volunteers



The Auckland NET team and Bridgette Carne are welcomed to the Diocese



Hui brought together representatives of 20 social services agencies connected to the Catholic Church.



Catholic Diocese of Auckland Te Taumata o te Hāhi Katorika

Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, St Mary's Bay, Auckland 1011
Private Bag 47904, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz
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