

Kia Orana & Talofa,

My name is Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh.

Some time ago I was St Andrew's representative on the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Leadership Formation Team, and I also led the Parish Liturgy Advisory Group (known as PLAG) up until 4 years ago when I had to resign for health reasons.

Today, it is my heartfelt privilege and my deep faith that gives me the strength to stand here and say my farewell to this church - St Andrew's.

I want to begin by acknowledging the people of St Andrew's who have in one way or another:

- Laid bricks, foundations, and walls during its conception. My understanding from some parishioners, is that St Andrew's used to be in Black Rock Road and based in the Bellevue School Hall.

- Shaped our congregation, by working together, to create our diverse and resilient community.

- Dedicated themselves to serve in ministries and provide pastoral care to ensure this church kept operating.

- Past Priests who are present here tonight and those who are not who gathered with us in masses. The 'Our Father' we have sung tonight was a gift to us by Father Mateo who has now returned to Tonga to continue his ministry work.

- Those who joined arm in arm to keep St Andrew's open for masses when it was temporarily closed.

- Gathered together at our masses to worship while remembering what we all have in common, Our Faith!

I know for each and every one of you, like myself, you will have had important events take place here at St Andrew's. These will always

be memories that we will treasure in our lives forever, and we will never forget.

Everything I have mentioned, as well as all of the unsaid words, has shaped each and every one of us to be proud, strong, and true St Andrew's people.

As we move forward to a changed St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish it is my hope that we take our St Andrew's spirit with us. That each and every one of us will join with our fellow parishioners from St Benedict's and St Peter's & Paul, as a vibrant, culturally diverse, faith sharing, and prayerful congregation. That by collaboratively working together we will continue to form and grow a strong community, committed to the Gospel teachings of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I will always carry St Andrew's in my heart. I move forward in hope and faith. I pray that wherever you currently are on this journey, you will be able to join me, with renewed hope and faith for our St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish.

I would like to leave you with this Cook Island quote:

Ko ai te mea e tino teikai, e tangata, e tangata, e tangata. No reira ra, na te Atua e tiaki ia tatou katoatoa.

(Which means – Who is important, its people, its people, its people. Therefore, may God always guide us all.)