

Pastoral Advisory Group – St Francis of Assisi Ohariu

MINUTES of meeting held 19 July 2023, 7-8.30pm.

Present: Natasha (chair), Joe, Fiona, Lucienne, Robert, Petrus. Chris Duthie-Jung (ADW)

Apologies: Scott, Jacqui, Pete, Mike.

Welcome prayer:

Natasha Opens. Welcomes Chris to the meeting.

All round introductions. Floor handed to Chris.

Chris explains his role in the Archdiocese:

- Director of Church Mission.
- Support to parishes
- Manager for Lay Pastoral Leaders, Tuakana in schools, as well as the Church Mission Team at the Archdiocesan Centre.
- Among topics discussed was homilies (reflections) given by lay people during the Mass. Needs to be clear that it is at the invitation of the presiding priest, with the presiding priest setting the scene – this ensures understanding role of the lay preacher and gives them credibility.
- Chris reminded us that our “parish is church in transition” (from the synod).

General update:

- PAG needs at some point to transition to a Parish Pastoral Council. This is likely to be at about the time a parish priest is appointed with the membership evaluated and fit for purpose.
- Parish structure needs to be on display.
- Transitional team (kaitohutohu): pray for the team, pray for the parish.
- ALPHA update.
- What’s going well? Families seem to be staying after Mass; welcoming new families; church is “buzzing”; it was expressed that “the parish is now a place I’m happy to invite my friends to”; a different spirit now we are in one church; even the children seem to want to come; music is varied and great; more people coming to Mass, and more younger people; mat area popular with families; children’s liturgy a highlight (children like the Mass).
- Image of St Francis of Assisi: feedback has been received that this should not be front and centre. Discussion. Purpose is to bring focus of three church communities into one (“branding”). Toward the end of the year this will be re-sited. Suggested we consider moving crucifix down (looked at since – the crucifix is attached to a structural fixture and would be difficult to suspend lower down – JG/ AM).
- Visitation ministry: do they have someone to unload to? (Joe to take to their next meeting).
- We should look at establishing an FAQ site – ensure people get the one story, same answer to questions (Joe to take to office team).

Closed with prayer.

Next meeting: Monday 21 August 2023, 7pm.