

## **The pastoral care of the Catholic Parish of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu.**

### **Pastoral plan: 2023-2027**

***“Missionary disciples of Christ, in a community of communities, being transformed in our lives and transforming others and our world”  
(Parish vision statement)***

#### Introduction

The following pastoral plan has been developed out of a three-step process.

Firstly, the material on the structure of portfolios historically assigned to Leadership Formation Team (LFT) members was reformulated as a strategic goal. The descriptions of the strategic goals were consulted with the LFT, amended as necessary and agreed in August 2022.

The actions relating to each strategic goal were primarily developed with ministry groups in the parish.

Thirdly, as part of the consultation with ministry groups, including the Pastoral Advisory Group “stretch action points” were developed where possible. Some of the action points are what might be termed “aspirational”.

Many thanks to those who gave feedback throughout this process.

The strategic goals and action points need to be read in terms of the evangelizing and mission orienting desire of the parish community as expressed in the Parish Vision Statement. At the same time, the document needs to be read as a whole: many action points are interchangeable with strategic goals other than one they are listed under.

Specific timeframes have not been set, however “current action with a stretch” might encourage action by mid 2024, “aspirational” by mid 2026.

***Joe Green***

***Lay Pastoral Leader***

***St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish***

A scriptural context***On the Road to Emmaus***

*Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.*

*He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"*

*They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"*

*"What things?" he asked.*

*"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."*

*He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

*As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.*

*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*

*They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.*

(Luke 24: 13-35)

Evangelization has been described as an encounter with Jesus, the making of disciples, and the sending on mission. In the Road to Emmaus we see the whole evangelizing process. It is for a person to come to know Jesus as their saviour and friend so that their hearts burn within them with love. In turn they will go out to share this love with others.

- Start local (Jesus drew near): talk with people. Facilitate opportunities for encounter through interests, hopes, dreams, service, even social media. Lay people are especially gifted to do this – they can do things and go places that the ordained cannot.
- Authentically witness (Jesus begins by questioning them): Be fully yourself – a person in love with Jesus Christ - and people will respond.
- Build community (Jesus joined them for a meal, drank the woman’s water): The foundation is friendship.
- Trust people (just as Jesus trusted them): give people space to surprise you – they don’t have to conform to your way of being a disciple. God trusted Mary – and she was a teenage girl!
- Finally - Never lose heart. As Ratzinger said before he became Pope Benedict XVI – “success is not one of the names of God”.

This then is the context for this pastoral plan.

**Worship and spirituality:** developing and sustaining life-giving and inclusive liturgy within an ethos of prayer which promotes spiritual growth.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One parish liturgy group coordinates the range of liturgies.</li> <li>• Children’s liturgy is offered: at least at one Mass each weekend.</li> <li>• The music ministry provides a variety of music options for liturgies. This includes attracting young people to music ministry.</li> <li>• The sacraments of initiation are actively offered in the parish. This includes sacramental preparation commonly known as a “sacramental programme”.</li> <li>• Liturgies and communion to the housebound (including to retirement villages and rest homes), formation for baptism, and the sacrament of anointing are available as part of parish ministries.</li> <li>• The parish is able to refer those seeking marriage to the ADW marriage preparation programme. Individualised preparation may also be offered where there is a genuine pastoral need.</li> <li>• A child friendly space is provided in the church (building) for young families. Parishioners are catechized to accept young children at the Mass.</li> <li>• The parish liturgy group has an active programme of renewal and refreshment, including the recruitment and training of existing and new liturgists. This includes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liturgy group, musicians and those offering sacramental formation take formation opportunities, particularly those offered by the Archdiocese of Wellington (ADW).</li> <li>• Quality purpose built/prepared rooms are available for children’s liturgy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish will allocate dedicated parking close to the church for those expecting a child, or with very young children, facilities for changing babies.</li> <li>• Gathering and/or worship opportunities are offered for young adults and young families.</li> <li>• Families who have had baptisms are brought together – to meet and get to know each other.</li> </ul>

<p>attracting young people to take liturgical roles (greeting, serving at Mass, proclaiming, and as Eucharistic ministers).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ALPHA is offered in the parish.</li></ul>		
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**Pastoral care:** involving parishioners, Challenge 2000 and other helping agencies in the direct provision of specific aspects of pastoral care, including to individuals and families, the sick and housebound, new parishioners, the lonely, the bereaved and those in crises.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Pastoral Advisory Group actively provides pastoral advice to the Pastoral Team.</li> <li>• A bereavement (grief and loss) ministry supports the bereaved and coordinates funerals.</li> <li>• A visitation ministry visits the sick and housebound.</li> <li>• A welcoming ministry is active in the parish, the purpose of which is to meet and greet new parishioners and connect them to parish life.</li> <li>• A range of groups (ecclesial communities) exist in the parish. These provide fellowship and support. Groups include but are not limited to Focolare, Catholics Women’s League, Passionist family Groups, Reverence for Life, St Vincent de Paul.</li> <li>• Following ALPHA course in late 2023 a Young Adults’ group formed. They meet regularly for social and spiritual reasons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parish office maintains and from time to time publishes a list of helping agencies.</li> <li>• Parishioners know of the 1737 help line and are able to refer those in need to that number.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lay led funerals and/or committals are available, offered and used.</li> <li>• “Single Catholics” (those who have a partner who is either not Catholic, and/or does not participate with them, and/or not inclined toward organised religion, and/or are opposed to Catholicism) have an opportunity to meet and share.</li> </ul>

**Community building:** actively building communion for formation and mission. This includes supporting existing community groups within the parish. It also includes building new faith-sharing, prayer, education, charitable and other sharing groups to enable people to deepen their relationship with one another in and with Christ. Such smaller more personal settings can offer a real sense of belonging and inclusion and enable people to acknowledge and care for one another and to encourage one another to live lives filled with faith and meaning.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small groups meet regularly (including but not limited to CWL, book club, prayer groups, Passionist Family Groups, Couple for Christ, etc).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We support existing and build new faith-sharing, prayer, education, charitable and other sharing groups to enable people to deepen their relationship with one another in and with Christ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbourhood based “little churches” (“hubs”) are developed so as to connect people and facilitate local prayerful and caring community relationships.</li> <li>Bible study group(s) (weekly?).</li> <li>Weekend events – get to know the gospel.</li> </ul>

**Integration:** enabling and promoting the interaction of the range of communities in the parish so that the parish comes to recognize and value its unity in the midst of a wonderful diversity. Integrating interaction includes the liturgical, social, pastoral and ministerial life of the parish.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministries (e.g. bereavement, baptism prep, visitation) are integrated “parish wide”.</li> <li>Social events/activities are offered 3 times each year. Hospitality and fellowship after Sunday worship becomes the norm.</li> <li>The leadership teams and ministries plan a programme that will increasingly integrate the three former parishes into one operating entity.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim for some integrating activity every quarter.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will create opportunities for young Catholic families to meet and get to know each other. This might include social events, Messy Church, school holiday programmes.</li> <li>Building a sense of community: shared activities (“speed dating” regular shared meals with tables chosen by lot, picnic and sports days, quiz nights, talent night.</li> <li></li> </ul>

**Formation:** the discernment of gifts and talents, the calling forth to ministry, and catechesis based on a sound theology and ecclesiology.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry groups meet for formation, mutual support and encouragement at least twice each year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A gap analysis identifies formation needs.</li> <li>Formation for leadership and ministry is identified and offered on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	

**Community outreach:** involving parishioners, Challenge 2000 and other helping agencies in supporting individuals and families with wrap around services including but not limited to pastoral care, healthy accommodation, employment assistance and food security using a development model that empowers them as.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parish employs a person for the purposes of coordinating community outreach, especially to refugees, migrants and others in dire social need.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parish actively advocates on social justice.</li> </ul>



**Operations and finance:** supporting the mission and pastoral care of the parish by funding activities, maintaining and improving facilities, and ensuring that financial processes are congruent with New Zealand law, accounting standards and take into consideration Archdiocesan norms.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A finance committee is in place.</li> <li>• The newsletter is our primary mechanism for communication parish wide.</li> <li>• Properties meet legal requirements (including parking marking and all signage).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An electronic communication strategy is developed, maintained and used.</li> <li>• Properties meet the standards of <i>Creating Welcoming Churches: a disability resource for faith communities</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Finance Committee works with the Pastoral Team to ensure that our physical space is safe and meets the social, administrative and liturgical needs of the parish.</li> <li>• Properties are developed such that they empower the outworking of this pastoral plan.</li> </ul>

**Young church/youth ministry/schools:** empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, drawing them to participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community and fostering their personal spiritual growth through a ministry that is based on the gospel, *Tu Kahikatea* and *Hikoī Tahi* (standards for Catholic Youth Ministry), and current research into strategies to assist young people.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenge 2000 (Kitty and Ana in lead) have connections with St Brigid’s School and with St Benedict’s school. Parish donates \$6K each year to Challenge.</li> <li>• The parish builds the relationship with our schools.</li> <li>• Pastoral Leaders work with teachers to provide a combined St Brigid's and St Benedict’s transitional retreat day for year 8s.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A person is employed as Young Adult Ministry coordinator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pastoral Team together with the Pastoral Advisory Group develops a vision and pastoral plan for children, young adult and family ministry.</li> <li>• Building on this, the parish invests in children, young adult and family ministry.</li> <li>• Young people have a “voice” in the parish.</li> </ul>

**Ecumenism:** entering into Jesus’ prayer for unity and truth by moving beyond what we can do within our own denominational and theological traditions, to a moving out, a journeying into uncharted territory where we are not alone, but find ourselves in the company of others on the same journey, all guided by the Holy Spirit. We deepen our relationship with other Christian denominations in order to express more visibly the unity longed for by Christ for his church. We labour together towards the fulfillment of our common Christian mission of love, worship, witness, proclamation and service in the world.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecumenical relationships are developed and maintained in the parish.</li> <li>• Ecumenical events (shared worship) include Advent, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday (walk), Stations of the Cross, World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity and Season of Creation.</li> </ul>		

**Interfaith/interreligious:** seeking out, recognizing and connecting with people of different religious traditions and entering into a cooperative, constructive, and positive interaction with them. This involves promoting understanding between different religions or beliefs to increase mutual acceptance and the acceptance of others.

Current action	Current action with a “stretch”	Aspirational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships are formed with people of the Abrahamic Faiths and other Faith/Religious groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for shared worship are sought.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parish community understands the importance of interfaith /interreligious dialogue, including Pope Francis’s efforts to promote this.</li> <li>• Meet with other faith communities.</li> </ul>