

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

Strategic goals

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

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

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.

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 they settle into living in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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.

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 *Hikoi Tahī* (standards for Catholic Youth Ministry), and current research into strategies to assist young people.

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.

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

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.

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.

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. (The term "interfaith" has been used to refer to dialogue between Abrahamic faith traditions. Increasingly the term "interreligious" is preferred because it is referring explicitly to dialogue with those professing religions – who identify themselves explicitly with a religious tradition and whose work has a specific religious affiliation and is based on religious foundations. And so religious traditions such as Buddhism and Hinduism are included).