

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ŌHĀRIU - PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026, 7.00 - 8.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Fr Gerard Burns, Fr Alfred Tong, Joanne Byrne, Edmund Becker, Ning Ibarra, James Fouhy (meeting chair, minutes),

**APOLOGIES:** Nick Borthwick, Lucienne Hensel

The meeting started with an Opening Prayer.

**REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of January 2026 were approved.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Property consultation progress
2. Alpha completion
3. Year of SFOA activity planning
4. Easter review
5. Elections - Catholic social teaching & biblical principles

**1. PROPERTY CONSULTATION**

- The property consultation process was discussed.
- An item regarding the 2nd of May is to be added as a bullet point in the upcoming newsletter – an email to be sent to Susan, with a copy forwarded to Natasha.
- Details for next week's newsletter were also reviewed.

**2. ALPHA COMPLETION**

- The Alpha program was completed and fits nicely into the "Called and Equipped" initiative before the weather gets cold in winter. The program successfully attracted approximately 30 people, including individuals from other places. Notably, there were about 10 younger people in attendance.

**3. YEAR OF ST FRANCIS ACTIVITY PLANNING**

- St. Francis Talks: Talks regarding Saint Francis will be brought together over the next month or so. There will be two talks presented per evening. Father Maurice has already recorded 4 to 5 sections for this series.
- Retreat in Daily Life: This retreat will involve two to three directors and needs to be promoted at upcoming Masses. Participants will gather in groups of about 12 to pray with provided texts, discuss what they gained from the reflections, and pray for others during the week.
- Upcoming Seasonal Topics: Future talks will focus on the period between Ascension and Pentecost. Additionally, a Matariki talk will focus on the heavens.
- August Peace Tradition: In August, the parish will focus on the Catholic peace tradition. It was highlighted that there is a peace flame located in the Botanical Gardens.

- Marae Stay: A Marae stay has been officially booked at the Newlands Marae for October 9th.

#### **4. EASTER LITURGY REVIEW**

- The overall sentiment for the Easter services was good, and it was noted that Holy Saturday went well.
- During Easter Saturday, it was observed that the church was too hot.
- It was suggested that an extra Eucharistic Minister might be needed for Easter Sunday in the future.

#### **5. LITURGY, DEVOTIONS & WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- Reflections on Caritas were discussed.
- Discussed there is a Holy Hour scheduled on Wednesdays with Divine Mercy devotions taking place on Fridays.
- Morning tea continues to be held on Wednesdays following Mass.
- It was suggested that hosting Taizé prayer could be considered.

#### **6. PARISH WELCOMING, WELFARE & "GUARDIANS" INITIATIVE**

- Strategies were discussed about how to better welcome people into the parish.
- A new "Guardians" initiative was proposed to help manage church events and environment.
- Guardians would focus on welcoming and welfare, which includes managing building ventilation, directing people to the toilets, and assisting individuals in difficulty.
- The welcoming initiative would involve tagging people involved in Mass ministries who is already rostered.
- To better facilitate these activities, the council discussed the possibility of appointing someone with an events management background or similar, who possesses strong people management skills and a natural ability to care for people.

#### **7. GENERAL ELECTIONS**

- It was noted that events relating to elections and Catholic social teaching could be run possibly more than once per month. Any future events should be regularly announced at Mass.

#### **8. OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

- Email regarding disabled parking to be sent to Graeme.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm with a closing prayer.