

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ŌHĀRIU - PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes - Sunday 23 November 2025, 7.00 - 8.30pm

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

**APOLOGIES:** Nick Borthwick

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

*Nick sends his apologies and will forward these when he returns from overseas.*

### AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) Planning for Parish Hui in the new year
- 2) Parish pilgrimage on Saturday 13 Dec 2025
- 3) Possible parish defibrillator
- 4) Evaluation of our first year's work
- 5) Other matters arising

#### 1) PARISH HUI

- It was agreed that the Parish Hui would be held on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**, from **1:30pm to 4pm**. The Hui will include presentations from the Finance Committee, Building Committee and Parish Pastoral Council.
- The Parish Council will speak to the Parish Vision and Pastoral Plan – slides will be prepared for each of the six sections of the plan, and we will take turns to introduce one section each.
- Following a 20-minute afternoon tea break, we will split into **small groups** using the Conversation in the Spirit method of sharing. The question for conversation will be:
  - *Where do you see yourself in this Pastoral Plan? How can you contribute?*Our aim is to get buy-in from people and a personal commitment to getting involved. The pastoral plan is the responsibility of all.
- In consideration of those who are unable to attend the Hui, we will also send the pastoral plan together with the question through the parish email, and have some hard copies available in the foyer.
- **To consider** – *do we ask people to fill in a short form? How do we ensure that the enthusiasm shown at the Hui is captured and made concrete?*

#### Hui Follow up:

In the new year we will invite people to join various ministries by speaking from the front. We are especially in need of **Greeters** and a **Welcoming ministry** for new parishioners.

We discussed the possibility of creating a new ministry for **'Mass Guardians'** during the weekend Masses – essentially these would be people who look out for those who may not have found a seat, or are not feeling well etc. during our parish Masses. There has recently been a medical incident during Sunday morning Mass, when an ambulance had to be called.

Later in the year we also plan to run a **Ministry Expo** (this needs to happen after both the Saturday vigil and the Sunday morning Masses to catch as many parishioners as possible.)

## **2) PARISH PILGRIMAGE**

A pilgrimage has been planned for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. We agreed that we will ask people to meet at the Home of Compassion (Island Bay) at 9:30am. (There is a Mass at the Chapel at 9am)

The pilgrimage later moves to Sacred Heart Cathedral where it will end at 12:30pm. As noted in the newsletter, there will be a shared dinner and blessing of Nativity Cribs in the evening after the Vigil Mass.

## **3) PARISH DEFIBRILLATOR**

The need of a parish defibrillator was discussed, especially considering a few medical incidents in our congregation over the past year.

The Parish Council agrees that a defibrillator should be purchased and placed in a strategic place on the outside of the church, making it also a service to the community. A parishioner is currently working on obtaining some funding, and it was agreed that a notice will also be put in the parish newsletter for additional funds that may be needed.

It was also agreed that it would be useful to offer some First Aid training to parishioners who are willing to be of service to the community. James will approach a St Benedict's parent who is known to him to ask his availability.

## **4) REFLECTION**

The Parish Council members spent some time reflecting on the past year and sharing their appreciation of all the work that has been done in the parish. There is a real sense of working together as a team, each one bringing their own gifts and contributions. We are grateful for the people who make up our parish, and the many ways they contribute to a vibrant, active and dynamic faith community. It was noted that people are happy to be part of this parish. (=

## **5) OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

**The issue of small children using the toilets** by themselves during Mass is a concern due to the fact that we only have the one set of toilets for both male and female. It was agreed that a notice should be put in the newsletter and on the Healthy & Safety notices for parents to accompany their children to the toilets if possible. The 'guardians' could also place themselves at the back of the church to look out for solo children using the toilets.