

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ŌHĀRIU - PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes - Sunday 25 January 2026, 7.00 - 8.30pm

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

The meeting started with an Opening Prayer

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

The minutes of the last meeting of November 2025 were approved.

#### AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) Planning for Parish Hui on 22 February 2026
- 2) Building Consultation proposal
- 3) 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St Francis of Assisi
- 4) Other matters arising
- 5) Dates for PPC meetings

#### PARISH HUI – SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026

The Council agreed on the following programme for the Parish Hui:

1:30pm	Welcome – <i>James</i>
1:35pm	Opening prayer – <i>Pa Gerry</i>
1:40pm	Finance Committee – <i>Graham</i>
1:55pm	Building Consultation – <i>Natasha</i>
2:10pm	Q&A – <i>Nick</i>
2:20pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>
2:45pm	Pastoral Plan – <i>PPC members</i>
3:00pm	Conversation in the Spirit in small groups – <i>ADW Synodal Team</i>
4:00pm	Conclusion – <i>Pa Gerry?</i>

It was agreed that we would give each presenter 10 minutes to speak (which realistically means 15 minutes per presentation).

A multi-purpose sign-up form will be prepared for people to fill in at the end:

1. Any questions that were unanswered at this Hui.
2. Opportunity to volunteer to serve in response to pastoral plan.

**An email** has been set up specifically for feedback for the parish vision and building consultation. [pv@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:pv@stfrancisohariu.nz) If people sign up, then we need to commit to following them up.

#### PARISH HUI TO DO LIST:

Finance team to present an overview of parish finance (10 minutes)	Pa Gerry
Natasha to present upcoming building consultation (10 minutes)	Pa Gerry
Contact synodal team to lead second part of the Hui	Lucienne
Hospitality – approach groups to serve tea and biscuits: Divine Mercy / St Ben’s Music Group / Passionist Fam / Alpha Team	Pa Gerry
Ask Challenge re availability for children’s programme	Pa Gerry
Announcement at 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Feb Masses.	Priests
Comms to go out to everyone on email the following week (coordinate with office (Susan))	Lucienne
Prepare Pastoral Plan slides for presentation	Ning
Prepare form for questions and volunteer opportunities	Lucienne/Nick
Buy more nametags / marker pens – check with office (Susan) first	Ed

## ST FRANCIS 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

This is a significant anniversary for our parish. What are some possibilities for us to celebrate it? Some suggestions:

- A monthly Sunday afternoon reflection on an aspect of Franciscan spirituality.  
*(Fr Maurice Carmody a possible speaker)*
- Make resources available for people to find out more about St Francis, his life and his spirituality.
- A possible art competition for our two primary schools.
- Have a special celebration to reinstate the St Francis image on a wall at the back of the church (for example a Taizé evening)
- A possible blessing of the animals on the feast of St Francis in the afternoon.
- A possible social evening, Alpha style, with a visual presentation on St Francis.

## BUILDING CONSULTATION:

The proposed presentation has been circulated via email. Kindly give feedback.

## OTHER MATTERS ARISING:

Invitation to Iftar Meal: The parish has received a request for the Iftar Meal from the hosting family. It was agreed that Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March was the most suitable date. The hall would be available from 6:15pm after the Vigil Mass. **Pa Gerry** to respond to and approach Nick and last year’s key organisers to collaborate.

Safeguarding workshops: These will be held at the parish on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. There are two options – afternoon or evening. Everyone is invited, however those in

ministry to the youth, the elderly and vulnerable people are highly encouraged to attend. **Joanne** will ask an appropriate person to speak at Mass about these.

Ecumenical context: It was noted that long term facilitators are both stepping down from this role, so we need to think about who can replace them. Possibilities were suggested for approach

As a parish we participate in the following ecumenical events:

- Ash Wednesday service
- Good Friday walk
- Lenten groups with Uniting Church

Welcoming Ministry: There is an urgent need in the parish for a Welcoming Committee. This role goes beyond greeting people on Sunday mornings or visiting new parishioners. We need parking wardens, and people who will serve as ushers and guardians during the Mass itself. Such people would also look out for anyone who is feeling unwell during Mass, open windows if necessary, etc.

- ~ **James** to contact two key people working in the Hospitality ministry at present and before
- ~ **Ed** to find out who used to be on the Newlands Welcoming team

#### Wellbeing of congregation

It was noted that a parishioner was unwell at the morning Mass from overheating. We need to be aware that the church can get quite hot and make sure that windows are open when necessary. If the fan needs repairs, we need to look at that. The heat-pump / air-con may need to be adjusted for the warmer months. *This highlights the need for guardians.*

## **PPC MEETINGS**

The following are the PPC meeting dates for the rest of the year:

1. **8 March**
2. 19 April
3. 31 May
4. 12 July
5. 23 August
6. 11 October
7. 22 November

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