



Parish Priest's Update

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are enjoying being back in Level 1.

It has been such a strange time and no doubt it is not over yet as the COVID-19 virus continues to play itself out around the world. Please let us know if any of you are struggling. We may be able to help in some way. I thought I would give you an update of our continuing work at the leadership level.

The Leadership Team has met several times working at the strategic level as well as holding weekly operational meeting. Greg McNeill has been leading us through how we will play out the vision of the North Parish over the next eighteen months.

OUR VISION FOR THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF CHRISTCHURCH NORTH IS OF A MISSIONARY PARISH BRINGING PEOPLE TO COME TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST PERSONALLY, HELPING THEM GROW AS DISCIPLES, AND GOING OUT TO OTHERS WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

Our primary objectives for the next 12 - 18 months are to:

- **Grow** parishioners' sense of belonging by welcoming everyone to be part of the spiritual, pastoral, and physical activities as we transition into a single united parish.
- **Build** our leadership capability as individuals, and as a team.
- **Establish** the direction of our mission.
- **Embed** the processes by which we achieve this mission.

OUR FOUR GOALS



Community: Belonging and Growth

Strategy: Facilitate growth & change of small groups.



Financial Sustainability

Strategy: Develop parish budget.



Operations: Unified and Effective.

Strategy: Consistent approach across activities.



Parish Leadership Team: Formed and Functioning.

Strategy: Leadership team and staff professional and spiritual development.

The Leadership Team has begun drawing activities together to see how we might achieve these goals. Each leadership team member is drawing up a plan to achieve these goals. We have already gathered many groups together to see how we might proceed in the new parish. I am conscious immediately of the pastoral needs of each former parish and have begun to draw our priestly and lay pastoral activity under one cohesive structure.

At the same time our usual pastoral activities are continuing.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We have celebrated two wonderful First Holy Communion Masses at St Matthew's Church and Christ the King Church last weekend.

CONFIRMATION

The Bishop will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with 31 young people from the former Bryndwr and Burnside Parishes on Saturday 10th October, while the Confirmation Programme has begun for those from the former Papanui Parish.

VISITATIONS

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion take Holy Communion to around 80 people in rest homes, retirement villages and in their own homes.

We priests continue to be available for visiting the sick. We are planning to have two Masses with the Sacrament of Anointing in December but are available to take the Sacrament of Anointing to anyone who is in need. Currently we have begun visiting the list of parishioners who are on the Holy Communion list above to offer the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing.

If you are sick or know of anyone who is sick and would appreciate a visit from a priest, please contact Melonie de Roo at the parish office. 027 752 770 or email priestspa@christchurchnorth.org.nz

MISSION UPDATES



MEGAN STEWART

Schools Coordinator

Megan and Monique have begun an engagement with school principals, staff, children and parents of each of our wonderful four primary schools in the parish to discuss how we grow the relationship between schools and parish in the light of our vision.

Megan and Monique are going to complete this engagement by also going to St Bede's College and Marian College who will be part of the parish when the new school is built adjacent to the Papanui site.



MONIQUE KEARNS

Schools Coordinator

In two weeks' time Bishop Paul will bless and open the new Chapel and classroom block at St Alban's Catholic Primary School.



IRENE MAGUIRE

Discipleship
Coordinator

Irene Maguire has met with the First Communion and Confirmation teams to discuss the management and facilitation of our sacramental programmes.

They have now arrived at the dates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion next year. Irene has also begun investigating the reality of small groups in the three former parishes.

The first area is to develop a bereavement team across the whole parish seeing what we might do together.

Brendan Woodnutt has gathered several people together to begin forming an Evangelisation Team. He has also met the leaders of the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) who are running this programme for the parish; we have several people exploring the Catholic faith so please keep them in your prayers.

A team under Brendan will begin the ALPHA program again at the beginning of next year.



BRENDAN WOODNUT

Evangelisation
Coordinator



KAELYN GRAHAM

Youth & Young Adults
Coordinator

Kaelyn Graham has been working with our youth leaders to bring together and expand our youth ministry. A young adults group is about to start meeting. Kaelyn has also been working with St. Bede's College to build a connection between the 5pm Mass and youth ministry.

Both Kaelyn and Irene have also been completing their work coordinating the Sacramental Programmes for 2020.

Lauren Butler has begun taking on the overall responsibility for the celebration of the Liturgy, and the life of prayer, in each of our Mass Centres as well as arranging the transfer of the 5pm Sunday Mass at Bishopdale to the St Bede's Chapel. Lauren has begun to plan for the ongoing training of various ministries at Mass. We are very fortunate to have a musical director, liturgical planners, cantors, organists, and various choirs over our three Mass Centres and this will continue while we have Masses at these three churches.

Lauren hopes to gather together these people soon to see what resources, expertise, and ideas we can share across the whole parish and how we might prepare for the liturgy in one new church in the future. Lauren has also been overseeing a small team planning for the big gathering of parishioners at two Masses at St Bede's College. We are now planning to have this big gathering of the whole parish at St Bede's on the Feast of Christ the King, 21/22 November.



LAUREN BUTLER

Liturgy Coordinator

The Administration Team, led by Melonie de Roo, has put in some long hours making the administration changes for us to become one parish, as well as making sure the day to day work of reception, finance, property, and health & safety needs are being met. Melonie has also been working well with the priests in keeping us in line!

Our I.T. is up and running and this has made the hard work very worthwhile but there is certainly more to do.



MELONIE DE ROO

Administration
Coordinator

The Finance Committee, led by Graeme Wilson, has just started working on the budget and promotion of one planned giving programme in the new parish. We are very grateful for the continued support of many as we make this transition.



GRAEME WILSON

Finance Committee
Chair

We are preparing, with the help of the Diocesan office, for the demolition of the presbytery, Timoney Hall, and the old swimming pool on the St Joseph's site. We have created an excellent shared office space at St Gregory's site for the Priests, Leadership Team and Administration Team.

This is proving a helpful and constructive environment.

The Building committee, led by Robert de Roo, have created a process to invite feedback about what the new church and pastoral centre at the Papanui site might look like, and what the needs of the parish might be into the future in light of our vision.

They have taken this to the leadership team, the youth groups, the school principals, some staff and members of the school community. Now they are taking it out to parish groups and then generally to the whole parish. This will enable us to form a brief which will allow us to engage the architectural process in the middle of next year.



ROBERT DE ROO

Building Committee
Chair

I hope this gives you some idea of where we are going, and what we have been doing initially.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Loughnan'.

Fr Rick Loughnan

Parish Priest