

Findings & suggestions from the Parish Planning day in April;

Many thanks to those parishioners who gave up their time, & attended the planning meeting on a Saturday morning in April.

We have now documented the feedback, & have the basis of items to include within a Parish Pastoral Plan.

We now seek your feedback, & or any additional items to include within these documents, & would appreciate if you have any comments, that these be made by email to the Parish office address, which is office@helensvillecatholic.org.nz

Regards

Burke Butler, PPC Chairman

Pastoral Planning;

- Ensure that we are inclusive of parishioners of all nationalities; [English as a second language]
- Approach new parishioners, & ask them to become involved in one of the church groups/ morning tea etc
- Explaining roles/duties of the relevant ministry groups. Also include names of the mentors
- Workshop to be co-ordinated by Fr Carlos for the various ministries

“Who are we as a Parish”

- Vibrant Catholic welcoming community, representing the Catholic church as a whole
- Body of Christ
- One parish – Church becomes the parishioners “family”
- Predominately rural, rapidly becoming semi urban
- A need to embody the values & friendly nature of the people of both the Helensville & Huapai community
- Nutritional, social & religious faith

- We are Evangelists
- Provide facilities to bring younger families back to the parish
- Inclusive of other faiths – find ways of being more unified with other local churches
- Regular attendance at Mass, not only at Xmas/Easter
- Listening to the priests homily
- Greeting people at mass – respect
- Mass is the central key to the local church

“What are we called to do”

- Make everyone feel welcome & loved
- Inclusivity
- Participation in the various ministries/committees
- Approach people “one on one”
- Do one little thing to assist – [overcomes excuses of being too busy]
- Welcome at the front door before mass
- Identify people who are outgoing to communicate with others, in order to get their buy in to assist
- Provide sacraments to parishioners
- Provide all new parishioners with a welcome pack
- Look outside the “walls of the church”
- Get our house in order first, & agree priorities & go out & evangelize
- Provide a place for spiritual growth – Church/Home/work/sport
- Acknowledge all the good work people are doing, eg, Thank you morning tea
- Parish must espouse values, not saying one thing & doing another – preaching by action
- Call to educate ourselves

“How are we best going to do it”

- Further education within smaller groups, [houses], or after church
- Family groups – participation outside church
- Reaching out to a non Catholic partner & youth
- Bible studies
- Prayer groups
- Newsletter – make people aware of recent changes – names of PPC, Finance & Liturgy groups, including emails & phone nos.
- Advise parishioners the role of the Parish council, & Finance committee, including photos & names of the members
- Awareness of who belongs to which committee
- Support the parish priest
- Say 3 or 4 times a year, when people enter the church for mass, supply a sticky name tag, so as people know the first name of nearby parishioners
- One mass each year for both parishes, alternating annually, to enhance “together as one”
- Re establish St Vincent de Paul in Helensville
- Assistance required from parishioners, to advise the PPC of certain peoples “centre of expertise” eg Organist
- Renew programme, [held in people’s homes], specifics come from the Diocese

Liturgy;

- Continue with committees in each end of the parish
- Communication between the liturgy committees, especially around Xmas/Easter
- Checklist & who is responsible for the various duties, [at a local level]
- Best practice to be adopted, ie HVL duties/roles
- Start about one month out for Easter especially

- Communicate with Father in advance & at an opportune time
- Changes to liturgy/choir & assistance during masses, to be communicated in a timely manner, & adhered to, [so as not to offend others]
- Advise visiting priests well in advance, on how we do things here, ie by email with a list of hymns, musicians, procedures for distributing communion to the sick/elderly
- Additional resources of people required to help with liturgy
- Review location of the musicians at Huapai, up to the top of church, [so as not to be the focal point]
- Review placement of the Tabernacle at Huapai, re overhead projector screen clash
- Recognition/appreciation of the liturgy groups, as an integral focal point of the churches
- Assist Father with funerals in the parish, by way of altar servers/Holy communion

Youth & Family;

- Encourage the youth to be integrated within the general church community, [rather than via youth groups]
- Encourage youth to participate in community groups, eg, firewood for needy families in the parish, Vinnies Xmas hamper etc
- Incorporate youth in the general rosters, eg readers, rather than specific youth masses
- Through the sacramental programme, encourage youth to become altar servers etc
- Continue with the Passionate family groups. Encourage new members to join
- Look into & encourage the assistance of funding youth on activities, such as “Hearts & Flame”, or weekend functions/programmes

Feedback from the Diocesan Youth Synod held on 22nd April 2018;

- They want to be involved in their faith community & in service opportunities
- Faith communities must be inclusive & welcoming
- Young people would like more support in facing challenges , [personal issues, teen pregnancy, sexual orientation, youth suicide & vocational discernment]
- Young people want more education about their faith
- Young people want more reverence during liturgical celebrations

Maintenance;

St Patrick's Huapai;

- 2016 Exterior painted
- 1990 New carpet, [changed seating & altar at same time]
- 2016 Reupholstered chairs
- 2016 Interior painted, wallpapered & heaters installed etc
- 2015 Church hall upgraded including new deck, entrance ramp & toilet
- 2008 Roof restored
- A need to replace the outside speaker at front of church, as existing one does not work, [required when there are large attendances , such as funerals]
- Disability access to church needs to be reviewed, in light of new H&S guidelines, [difficult & sharp turn into the church]

St Josephs Helensville;

- Presbytery ongoing – when completed, the car park will be resealed
- 2004 Windows & doors only painted
- 2010 Church exterior painted
- 2011 New carpet in the Sanctuary & aisle
- 2003 Presbytery painted
- 2006 Fr Sakey Centre exterior & interior painted
- Check & repair the concrete church steps, as it is cracked & chipped

St Dominic's Centre;

- 2010 Exterior painted
- 2012 Kitchen, toilets & hall upgraded
- 2018 Ramp at entrance constructed
- 2019 Rear steps to be replaced with wooden steps

Both Churches;

- A need to be aware of compliance & H&S issues within each church/hall, eg, fire extinguishers, compliant
- Compile a core list of trades people, handy people who can assist with maintenance when required