

# ***St Patrick's Parish Paraparaumu***

## ***Pastoral goals and objectives (2007 and beyond)***

### **Mission Statement of the Archdiocese of Wellington**

We, the Catholic People of the Archdiocese of Wellington,

challenged to follow Christ,

are called to proclaim the Kingdom of God

by:

*celebrating God in our lives,*

*sharing our living faith,*

*growing in community,*

*and working for justice and peace.*

### **Vision Statement of the Parish of St Patrick at Kapiti**

We, the members of the Catholic Community of Kapiti in St Patrick's Parish,

aim to achieve the Mission of the Archdiocese of Wellington

by:

*seeking to live out Christ's calling,*

*through creating a loving, caring faith community.*

## **Introduction**

This document sets out the way in which we intend to achieve the objectives adopted by the Synod '06 *Salt & Light Together*. Underlying this document are many specific actions, which have been encapsulated in the Parish Ministry and Group Action Plans. The Action Plans list the commitment made by various Ministries and groups within the Parish as a result of an extensive consultation with parishioners during 2006 and 2007.

## **Our Parish and the World in which we live**

### **The issues we face**

St Patricks shares the strengths and other characteristics in common with other Catholic and Christian organisations, in particular our work is guided and supported by the Holy Spirit and two thousand years of wisdom enshrined in the teaching and worship of the Catholic Church – we have not restated these, but below outline some factors that will be a particular emphasis in the development of our pastoral plan.

We live in a time of change – conventional wisdom is that things have never been changing more rapidly. The world of youth today is vastly different from the world in which those who are now middle aged and elderly experienced. Our faith embodies timeless realities and its fundamental nature does not change. However, we each live our faith in a context and the expression of our faith needs to

react to that context and, to a certain extent, accommodate it without compromising the core truths that we hold dear.

Some of the major factors influencing our world today are:

The "aging population" problem. People are living longer and the proportion of older people is increasing as a percentage of the total population. Currently approximately one in eight people are over the age of 65 and this figure is expected to double by the middle of this century.

There are currently at least three major age demographic groups whose needs are not always identical but who need to be accommodated. These are the "baby boomers", gen-X and gen-Y. Each of these groups has a different set of expectations and approaches and each has an equal right to have their voice heard and valued.

This problem is exacerbated by the strong anecdotal evidence that we are losing youth to other churches – this is a phenomenon that is not limited to St Patrick's, but is being experienced across the more traditional denominations.

This presents a number of challenges to us as a church – meeting the physical needs of the elderly; ensuring that our liturgy is welcoming and supportive to each group; and ensuring that each generation is welcomed and valued as part of our church governance. In particular it presents the challenge of involving youth in a substantial way.

The increasing secularisation of society. This is reflected in a number of ways. A number of pieces of legislation have been seen by some as attacking what we regard as traditional catholic values, the Civil Unions Act and the anti-smacking legislation are recent examples. As well, there are significant trends, which attack fundamental rights to life, which are at the very core of Catholic moral values. The ever-increasing numbers of abortions, the repeated attempts to allow euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research are a few examples of this.

These factors require complex and firm responses from Catholics and Christians in general. It is no longer safe to assume that people hold a consistent set of moral and social values. Our response to the world needs primarily to hold on to and advocate for those values which we hold dear and believe to be essential to a well ordered society but on the other hand recognises and accepts that all people are equally loved by God and that Jesus is the saviour of all.

One particular set of challenges that faces us is the economic challenge – increasing pressures on families and greater expectations for material possessions places immense stress on family life. This is evident even in traditional families – mum, dad & the kids – where frequently both parents need to work to make ends meet and those families where one or other parent chooses to remain out of the paid workforce are forced to make significant material sacrifices.

While we must recognise and support the legitimate wish of families for a reasonable standard of living and the right of all people to have fulfilling lives, we also need to recognise the stress that this places on our society in general and as a parish community work to support all our members.

In addition to secularisation, a further set of challenges arises from the increasing multi-cultural nature of our society. At the same time as we have the opportunity for enrichment from the cultural diversity, we are also faced with increasing challenges to some of the assumptions that we were able to make in a more homogenous society. And of special importance is the absolute need to recognise the rights of Tangata Whenua. The Catholic Church in New Zealand has a tradition in these areas of which we can be proud, but we can by no means rest on our laurels.

The last set of factors that we need to take into account is the nature of the local community. The Kapiti district is one of the fastest growing areas in New Zealand and has been for some time. The Long Term Council Community Plan aims at the district being the largest community in the region in the not too distant future. Figures published by Statistics New Zealand also show that the district as a whole has some unique features. The average age of the people living in the area is higher than for New Zealand as a whole and the proportion of Maori is approximately half that of the country as a whole.

## **Our ability to respond**

Many of these factors may be seen as "problems" or "threats" to be overcome. While to an extent this is true, they also present significant opportunities. The richness of our faith and the wisdom incorporated in our catholic traditions provides a solid basis for overcoming these issues and building an even stronger community than we currently have.

St Patrick's already embodies many of the qualities necessary to sustain a rich and supportive faith community into the future. The challenge is to move forward prayerfully with a clear vision of where we are heading and with our ability to identify bumps and potholes along the road.

We have an active parish council who are committed to support for young people and families. A particular strength is our support for youth, a highlight of which are the Jesus4Real camps, whose ministry extends beyond our narrow parish boundaries. We have groups currently active, which reach out to young people in all age categories from pre-schoolers through to young adults. Many people within the parish of all age groups have supported the involvement of a substantial contingent of young people in the World Youth Day 2008. The attendance of such a large group of youth at World Youth Day presents a huge opportunity for the parish as a whole to learn and to grow – if we respond appropriately and offer more than tokenism and tolerance.

The Passionist Family Movement is alive and well. This ministry encompasses the whole community and provides a real sense of community to people regardless of age, gender or marital status.

The liturgical life of the parish is well developed. There is an active children's liturgy, which is integrated into the main mass. The liturgical ministers are mainly more mature people although in all areas, special ministers, readers and musicians, younger people are taking an increasing role.

There is much other good work being done by parishioners, for example involvement in the catechumenate and Lenten reflection groups. Parishioners have demonstrated both willingness and ability to be involved and this provides the essential ingredient without which growth and change would not be possible.

One area under current development is the physical space of the parish – there is considerable feeling that what we have is inadequate to support the liturgical, social and educational needs of the parish as a whole.

Another area where significant development and involvement is needed is Education in Faith. More resources are needed to ensure programmes are promoted to the wider parish. A social justice group has been formed with involvement from the Waikanae and Paraparaumu/Paekakariki parishes. Greater visibility of the social justice issues needs to be promoted-among the parishioners, which would assist in developing a stronger sense of community.

## What the Synod Asks of Us

The Synod arrived at a number of end statements and these govern our pastoral plan – they are what we are trying to implement in St Patrick's parish. The synod document describes in some detail what each of these means, in other words what the diocese will look like once the goals are achieved.

In the following section, we take each of the Synod overarching topics and summarise the actions we will take. The Synod document can be found on the Archdiocesan Web Site [www.wn.catholic.org.nz](http://www.wn.catholic.org.nz)

<b>Celebrating God in our lives</b> Liturgy, Prayer and Spirituality
<b>Sharing our living faith</b> Education and Life-long Growth in Faith
<b>Growing in community</b> Welcoming Community  The Young Church  Ministry and Local Leadership
<b>Working for justice and peace</b> Social Justice – Our Responsibility

## Our Response

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has, after wide consultation throughout the parish, agreed to a course of action to respond to these factors. These actions are intended to occur over an extended period of time and will be “owned” by one or more of the parish ministries. The PPC will, as part of its annual process, evaluate the past year’s achievements and reconsider the overall needs of the parish within the context of the strategy before formulating its annual plan for the coming year.

Activities, which are not part of the agreed plan, are not precluded, and all initiatives aimed at making St Patrick’s a vibrant, spiritual place at the centre of people’s lives are welcomed. However, the PPC will assess any requests for parish resources against the impact on the overall plan.

Each topic is divided into three distinct sections. Firstly, there is a set of statements that sums up the parish as it is now. Secondly comes a set of statements that describes the way the parish will be characterised in the future (which will be very similar in many cases to the current state). The third set of statements groups the activities that will be undertaken to achieve the desired objective.

There is a fourth set of statements in separate documents – called action plans. These are the plans drawn up by the various ministries describing the actions that they intend to undertake. These action plans together form the parish pastoral plan. The actions are all time-bound and measurable and it these that the PPC will use to ensure that we are making progress on our pilgrim journey.

It is important to realise that there is no end to this journey – once the current plans are completed there will no doubt be further things that can be done. A process of prayerful analysis will identify these.

## **Celebrating God in our Lives**

*The sacraments are the central pivots of our faith. This is especially true of the Eucharist enshrined in the communal worship of our Mass.*

### Goals/end statements:

Liturgy, prayer and spirituality in St Patrick's Parish will be characterised by:

1. Opportunities to deepen our relationship with the Lord, share faith experiences with others and enhance awareness of the relationship we have to the sacraments.
2. Different kinds of liturgy within the parish aimed at meeting the needs of our people. These will be inclusive, reverent, joyful and creative. They will include Maori and multi-cultural participation and will be family and youth focused.
3. Acceptance by parishioners of lay leaders in a range of ministerial roles, including lay lead liturgies of the Word with Communion.
4. An awareness of and opportunities for individuals to be grounded in prayer through participation in cell groups, formal and informal prayer, and prayer for and with others.

### Objectives/steps toward achieving these goals:

- L1. A dedicated group (committee) identifies changes and opportunities for development in liturgy, prayer and spirituality. A plan for the introduction of these developments is published by December 2008.
- L2. The parish council supports the introduction of new initiatives by providing the necessary equipment, funding and other support as much as possible within the resources available to them.
- L3. Ministries and groups responsible for liturgy, prayer and spirituality work in collaboration to include each other, and others. This includes dialogue with Maori, other ethnic groups, young people, older people and the less able. Formal consultation is held with each identified group by December 2008.
- L4. A communications plan is developed to ensure that all parishioners are aware of opportunities for participation in the life of the parish by December 2008.

## Sharing our living faith

*A principal gift of our catholic faith tangibly expressed in this parish is that it represents a personal guide of values to live life by. All individuals are strongly supported in this endeavour by the parish clergy and our ministries and groups.*

### Goals/end statements:

Education and Life Long Growth in Faith in St Patrick's Parish will be characterised by:

1. A programme that is focussed on providing opportunity for parishioners to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus,
2. Faith education which is inclusive, on-going and family-based,
3. A seamless education-in-faith programme, which develops primarily within small groups able to access and make available relevant Church teaching.

### Objectives/steps toward achieving these goals:

- E1. The parish council will work with parishioners and, by June 2008, identify a programme of education designed to meet the needs identified by parishioners at large.
- E2. A programme for meeting the educational needs will commence before the end of September 2008.
- E3. Programmes introduced to the parish will be coordinated by a dedicated committee of parishioners working in collaboration with the PPC and ministries within the parish by July 2008.

## Growing in community

### *A Welcoming Community*

*Parishioners embrace formal and informal duties of welcoming and encouraging socialising after Sunday mass. The Passionist Family Groups cater for both spiritual and social needs in a mix of all age groups with an emphasis on activities as an “extended family”.*

#### Goal/end statement:

1. St Patrick's Parish is a welcoming, caring, enthusiastic and loving community.

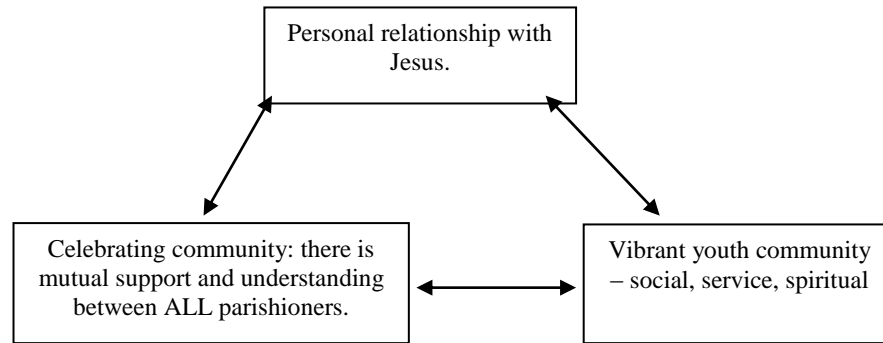
#### Objectives/steps to achieving goal:

- W1. Ministries are active in the parish and report on a monthly/ bi monthly schedule to PPC. They welcome newcomers to their groups.
- W2. A communications plan is developed to ensure that all parishioners are aware of opportunities for participation in the life of the parish by December 2008.
- W3. The home bound and sick are visited by pastoral leaders, lay or ordained, on a regular and planned timetable to be developed by June 2008.
- W4. Pastoral leaders, lay or ordained, are accessible as pastoral priorities allow. Where they themselves are not available other competent parishioners are deputised. A system of deputised leaders to be identified and in place by June 2008.
- W5. The requirements to ensure that the physical space in the parish meets the needs of parishioners and ministries are identified and options for improvement are developed by June 2008.

### The Young Church

*Intergenerational teamwork and participation is a healthy feature of our parish liturgical and social life and we intend it to be fundamental to all groups within our ministries. The parish enjoys a strong and energetic group of inspirational young adults.*

#### Goals/end statements:



St Patrick's Parish will be characterised by young parishioners who want to participate in the parish and in the youth ministry programme, and who in turn invite their friends to also participate. This will be the measure of success.

#### Objectives/steps to achieving goals:

- Y1. Young people will be included in the leadership of parish ministries and have full opportunity to participate in those ministries. This includes having a part in defining their own youth ministry programme. Plan to be developed by September 2008 by youth coordinator.
- Y2. Young people, of all ages, will be invited to participate in the life of the parish, including the liturgical life of the Church. Plan to be developed by September 2008 by youth coordinator.
- Y3. Regular events, at least monthly will be held for young people. Events will include social interaction, food, and faith development. Plan to be developed by September 2008 by youth coordinator.
- Y4. All parishioners are responsible: each needs to ask themselves: "do I interact with the young people in my parish? Do I greet them? Do I take an interest in their activities? Do I treat them as members of my parish family, both at Church and in the wider community?" The involvement by the wider parish family in support of World Youth Day 2008 participants will be a good measure.
- Y5. The parish has a youth ministry programme with a paid youth coordinator who is part of the Pastoral Team, overseeing all youth activities on an ongoing basis.
- Y6. The youth ministry programme is benchmarked against best practice in youth ministry. Plan to be developed by September 2008 by youth coordinator.
- Y7. The parish supports the young and the youth ministry in tangible ways (guidance, support, assistance, finance, prayer). Plan to be developed by September 2008 by youth coordinator and WYD08 preparation.
- Y8. The parish/Pastoral Area, as special outreach to young people, supports Jesus4Real camps. Camps held twice yearly



### Ministry and Local Leadership

*The parish enjoys active participation by a wide number of generous and gifted parishioners in all Ministries. A joint pastoral area council has been established to work in areas of common interest to both the Waikanae and Paraparaumu/Paekakariki parishes.*

#### Goals/end statements:

Ministry and leadership in St Patrick's Parish will be characterised by:

1. Active participation and collaboration as members of the Kapiti Pastoral Area Team, and as leaders within St Patrick's parish itself.
2. A spirit of prayer.
3. Guidance by the Holy Spirit.
4. A faith community that recognises and celebrates the gifts of one another.
5. Responsiveness to the needs of parishioners, each other and the mission of the Church.
6. A very alive and caring community.

#### Objectives/steps toward achieving this goal:

- M1. A planning group is formed by 31 July 2008 to identify the pastoral and ministerial leadership needs of the parish, including investigation of a hospitality ministry, and to put in place a strategy to meet those needs. To report back to the Parish Council by 30 November 2008. This will include an environmental scan, including identifying the talents of parishioners. This may also include the initiation of an Evangelisation Ministry.
- M2. The parish council will engage with the youth of the parish and agree a set of initiatives that will meet the expressed needs of the youth in all areas of parish life by December 2008.
- M3. A communication plan is developed, implemented and maintained by December 2008.
- M4. The PPC, PAT and parish ministries meet regularly (both as a group and separately), source training relevant to their respective roles, and actively form and maintain links with each other. A calendar of meetings will be developed by June 2008.
- M5. The PPC, PAT and parish ministries are supported by an administrator (paid secretary and/or manager/coordinator) such that they are enabled to carry out their pastoral functions unhindered by administrative matters. PPC to review and investigate the feasibility of this by September 2008.
- M6. The Parish develops a programme that welcomes trainee lay leaders and seminarians.
- M7. The Pastoral Area Team and parish ministries have a succession plan, actively recruiting members, including young people (those aged 18-35 years especially). This may include potential lay leaders and ministers from within the Parish itself. Recruitment may be by a range of means including but not limited to; selection by Pastoral Leader and/or parish priest/moderator, a process of discernment by the Pastoral Team and/or Parish Pastoral Council and/or Pastoral Area Council and/or ministry group and/or election by parishioners. Plan to be developed by December 2008.
- M8. Training and support is provided to those who take a leadership role, whether lay or ordained, and to parishioners in order that they are accepting of the collaborative lay and ordained ministerial approach. Part of plan to be developed by December 2008.

### *Our physical space*

*It is recognised that the parish buildings may not meet our current requirements.*

#### Goal/end statement:

1. St Patrick's will have a physical space that meets the liturgical, pastoral, social and administrative needs of the parish.

#### Objectives/steps to achieve goal:

A project team to be established by 31 July 2007 to determine, define and develop a plan for a physical space that meets the liturgical, pastoral and administrative needs of the parish. This team will necessarily include members of the Pastoral Team, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, St Patrick's School and the Kapiti Pastoral Area Council. The team will be lead by a person with proven project management skills. To report back to the Parish Council by 30 November 2007. The 'physical space' includes (but is not limited to); accommodation for priest and/or lay leader, space for worship, gathering, kitchen, dining, ministries, children's liturgies, crèche, playgroups, kindy, play centre, youth.

### *Our Parish School*

*The parish takes great pride in St Patrick's Parish School, which serves a wide area of the coast. The school is truly a great asset to the parish and ensures vibrant participation by children and their families in the pastoral life of the parish.*

#### Goals/end statements:

1. St Patrick's Parish and St Patrick's School collaborate to ensure that a quality education in a Catholic environment is available to pupils at the school; recognising them as being members of both the parish community and the Kapiti Pastoral Area.
2. The Parish also recognizes that the school has wider goals in its mandate as a place of general education and will support those ends and will recognize and respect these wider goals.

#### Objectives/steps to achieving these goals:

- S1. St Patrick's Parish and St Patrick's School have a defined working relationship. Investigate by June 2008.
- S2. Lay and ordained Pastoral Leaders are active in the school, both with staff and pupils. Plan developed by June 2008.
- S3. There is active collaboration and visible participation by the Parish and School on their respective organisational structures, including but not limited to the Board of Trustees, Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee.
- S4. Parish ministries include and seek to meet the needs of the school community. Parish ministries and School representatives meet regularly.

## **Working for justice and peace**

*The parish welcomes opportunities to be publicly involved in moral and social justice matters within the wider Kapiti area. Waikanae and Paraparaumu/Paekakariki parishes have joined forces to ensure more focus is given to social justice issues.*

### Goals/end statements:

Social Justice – Our Responsibility -in St Patrick's Parish will be characterised by:

1. Full engagement with the responsibilities espoused in the beatitudes.
2. Parishioners fully informed of and practising the social justice teachings of the Church.

### Objectives/steps toward achieving these goals:

- J1. The appointment of a co-ordinator fully engaged in a coordinating and communication role with all the organisations and activities of the parish and Pastoral Area by 30 August 2007.
- J2. An environmental scan to determine the social justice needs of the Parish by June 2008.
- J3. Support services in the parish, both within the Church and externally are identified and communicated to parishioners by December 2008.

**Abbreviations**

PPC Parish Pastoral Council

PAT Pastoral Area Team

PAC Pastoral Area Council

PFC Parish Finance Committee

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Endorsed by the St Patrick's Parish Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father Michael McCabe –Parish Priest

Date\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Green – Chair PPC

Date\_\_\_\_\_