



PARISH OF ST MICHAEL
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NOTICE OF PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the parish
will be held in the St. Mary MacKillop Hall
on Sunday 14 August 2022 commencing at 11.15am

Agenda

- Welcome
- Guest Address: Fr. Justin Taylor sm
- Pastoral Council report
- Finance Council report
- Open Forum
- Appointment of new Pastoral Council
- Close of meeting

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

ALL WELCOME

Guest Speaker

Justin Taylor sm is Senior Scholar in residence at [Te Kupenga – The Theological College, Auckland](#). He studied history at the University of Cambridge in England, where he graduated Ph.D. in 1972. From 1988 to 2011, he taught at the École biblique et archéologique française, Jerusalem, in the fields of New Testament and Christian origins, was Vice-Director from 2007 to 2010 and is now Emeritus Professor of New Testament. In 2006 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity of the University of Cambridge. In 2011 he received the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology (honoris causa) from the Pontifical University of St Thomas (Angelicum), Rome. His biography of the Marist Founder, Venerable Jean-Claude Colin was published in 2018.

FINANCE COUNCIL

Report to the 2022 Annual Meeting

Introduction

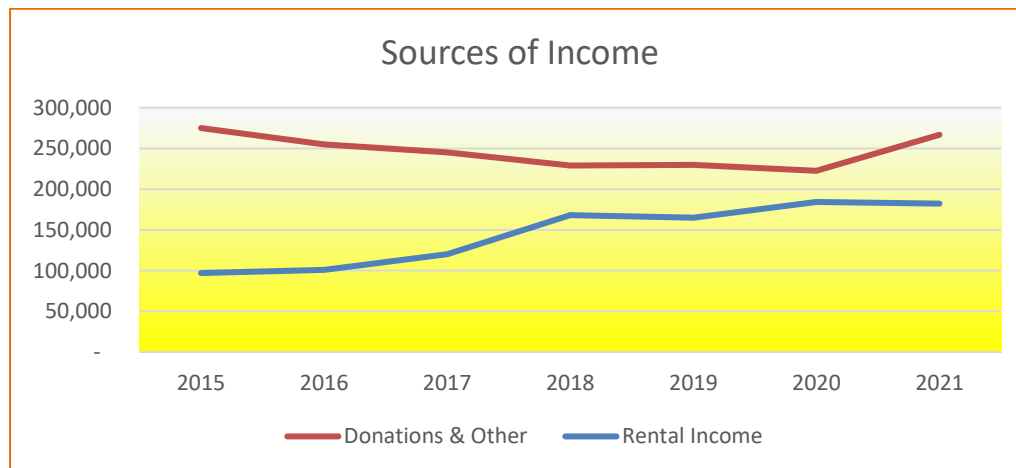
On behalf of the Finance Council, I present this report to the annual meeting of the Parish on the activities of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2021 which was significantly impacted by Auckland's long lockdowns and many Pandemic restrictions.

Highlights of 2021

1. Maintenance of rental properties (changes to meet government regulations and to generate increased revenue for the future)
2. The continued downward trend in cash collections and planned giving was offset by an increase in automatic payments, fundraising and new giving through tap n go
3. Donations increased, rental income was stable, there was a surplus from the July 2021 fundraising Concert hosted by James Ioelu which overall amounted to a \$60,000 increase in revenue

Finance Performance 2021

1. 2021 Revenue was \$526,000, up from \$464,000 (2020) & \$466,000 (2019)



2. Collection Revenue at \$261,000, a \$5,000 increase on 2020.
3. Rental income was in line with prior year.
4. Expenses were held to \$553,000, up from \$517,000 in 2020.
5. The result was a deficit of \$27,000, an improvement on the 2020 \$53,000 deficit
6. The Parish had cash on hand of \$26,000 and cash invested with the Auckland Diocese of \$679,00 as at 31 December 2021 (up \$61,000 on 2020).

Current Financial Position

1. Collections revenue YTD May 2022 is tracking just below last year
2. Decline in revenue from cash donations continues to be offset by increases in online and digital (i.e. non cash) giving.
3. Tap n'Go facility paying its way, new revenue of \$6,000 in 2021.
4. Rental Income down \$21,000 due to vacancy while a rental house is brought up to standard for re-leasing.
5. Expenditure needed over 2022/23 on:
 - Church maintenance (leaks, tower issues and ongoing upkeep)
 - Parish House (painting)
 - Parish Centre upgrade
 - Rental properties (to bring to standard).
6. As of end of May 2022, cash & reserves at \$745,000, most invested with the Auckland Diocese. Expected to dip into this for rental property & tower repairs.
7. Minimal liabilities - over \$17 million excess of assets over liabilities, mostly Land & Buildings.

Priorities

1. Maintain our reserves and seek to reach breakeven including depreciation
2. Increase revenue from collections & other sources (including bequests)
3. Encourage movement from cash to cashless donations.
4. New website, Parish App & Pushpay - improving the options for parishioners and visitors to give to the parish and attend new events.
5. Addition of further Tap n'Go facility for candles (to reduce cash handling)
6. Proactive maintenance of parish assets – particularly the Tower & 4 Beatrice Rd.
7. Continuing to pursue the projects identified in the strategic planning process.
8. Optimisation of Parish Rental Properties.

Finance Council Membership

Current Council members are Mike Molloy (chair) Anthony Segedin, Clare Wade, Patrick Brockie and Fr. Tony. Alex Houghton resigned during the year- the committee expressed its appreciation of Alex's years of service.

Conclusion

The financial position remains sound however we have cost headwinds ahead.

Comments

Your Council is working to prioritise spending and increase revenue to maintain our reserves while ensuring we spend what is required to maintain our assets.

The Council is looking at all options to increase revenue that improves the financial position going forward. Income from planned giving and weekly donations had been declining but our appeals reversed this trend. To date 2022 donation revenue has flattened and is starting to fall marginally so we are looking at ways to address this.

Cost-of-living increases are impacting the church just the same as everyone else in daily life.

The trend toward non-cash methods of giving continues with banks also discouraging cash deposits. With Push Pay and Tap n'Go facilities parishioners & visitors can donate more easily to help us maintain our church, other facilities and provide services.

The rental properties are needed to provide revenue towards the Parish running costs, overheads & discretionary spending. No. 4 Beatrice Rd has been empty awaiting required maintenance, meaning we have lower income in 2022. All these properties require continued investment to maintain them at appropriate standards.

During the 2021 year parishioners were asked to review the level of their personal contributions as Inflation, necessary maintenance, changes in parish membership and the uncertain economic outlook meant we still have a deficit, albeit a shrinking deficit. There has been a satisfactory increase in donations, for which we are grateful, however we may need another appeal and/or fundraising events in 2022.

My thanks to all parishioners for their support and to the members of the Council for their efforts on behalf of the parish.

Mike Molloy
Chairman, Finance Council
30 June 2022

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Report to the 2022 Annual Meeting

Introduction

This is a report on the activities of the Council and its committees for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 ("review period"). Despite the two periods of lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic the Council had a busy year in which a number of projects were started, some earlier initiatives were developed further, and some important projects were completed as planned.

Highlights

- The annual meeting of 2021 with an address by Sir David Carruthers.
- Prompt resumption of Mass as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
- Re-launch of the enlarged Home Visits ministry.
- Sell-out concert in the church on 30 July, the full programme led by James loelu.
- Formation of a committee to celebrate the church's 90th anniversary in 2023.

COUNCIL

Membership

The Council and parish were saddened by the death on 15 December 2021 of Michael Pender, a Council member since 2019, a greatly admired and loved colleague and fellow parishioner. In October we were joined by Louis Kriechbaum and have valued his contribution to our deliberations. The rest of the Council members continued in office with me: Anna Lu, Anne Stevenson, Dan Stollenwerk, Issa Ilo-Cabiling, Mike Molloy, Steve Hughes and Terisa Cordtz, with Fr. Tony Dunn as an active and invaluable ex officio member. The Council met 13 times during the review period, by Zoom on occasions when Covid restrictions prevented us from getting together at the parish house.

2020 Annual Meeting

This was held on Sunday 15 August 2021 with 65 persons attending. Our distinguished guest speaker was Sir David Carruthers who spoke about Christian aspects of the administration of justice based on his experiences as the former holder of four important public offices – Chief Youth Court Judge, Chief District Court Judge, chair of the Parole Board, chair of the Independent Police Complaints Authority.

Pastoral Plan

In September 2021 the Council carried out a further review and update of the three year pastoral plan. Despite the time and opportunities lost through Covid restrictions the plan remains the basic roadmap for the Council's priorities and projects. Much of the work required to carry out the Council's plan is assigned among the Council's six pastoral committees. Each committee has a written charter, is represented by a member of the Council and makes a monthly activity report to the Council.

PASTORAL COMMITTEES

During the review period each committee worked hard to discharge its responsibilities, but the task was made difficult, and at times impossible, because of the Covid restrictions, especially the limits on parish gatherings. This section of the report gives the names of persons who were members of each committee at 30 June 2022 and records some of the major activities and achievements of the committee.

Liturgy Committee

Fr. Tony Dunn (chair), Tina Fitness, Louise Gordon, Steve Hughes, James loelu, Fiona Twomey

- All parishioners able to attend Mass every day possible during the Covid restrictions.
- Music and liturgies for Christmas, Holy Week and Easter and the Church year.

- Statue of St. Michael the Archangel mounted on a kauri plinth in the north transept.
- Completed the visitor guide with publication to be linked to church's 90th anniversary.
- James loelu became Music coordinator, in succession to Louise Porter.
- We record the sad loss of Tony Vela, for many years an organist and choir master at services in St. Michael's church, and of Philip Dromgool, a stalwart and longstanding member of the collectors ministry which serves the parish at Sunday Mass.

Religious Education Committee

Neil Laurenson (chair), Cecilia Chai Tse, Dan Stollenwerk

- The Lenten programme (*Blessed to be Family*), coordinated by Josephine Hazel, which involved 60 parishioners attending a series of four weekly meetings.
- The Winter programme (*Life in the Spirit*) comprised a series of six weekly meetings attended by 50 participants.
- Published an information leaflet about the Catholic faith and St. Michael's parish.
- A large group of 70 young people took part in the Sacramental Programme.
- Developed a project to conduct a parish survey on evangelisation to help the committee plan programmes for the next few years.

Communications Committee

Jonathan Spencer (chair), Issa Ilo-Cabiling, Mike Molloy, Fiona Twomey

- Published the 2021 parish annual report and organised the 2021 annual meeting.
- Published the parish 2021 report in December 2021.
- Issued reports in the parish newsletter after each monthly Council meeting.
- Completed the upgrade and re-design of the parish website.
- Made a submission to the diocese on the televising of Mass.
- Began the next stage in the upgrade of the parish register.
- Launched the St. Michael's Parish App enabling parishioners to use their mobile phones to access the parish website and other features.

Youth Committee

Jonathan Spencer (chair), Terisa Cordtz, Louis Kriechbaum

- Worked with other young Catholic volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul emergency food packing operation now based in Onehunga.

Caring & Support Committee

Anthony Segedin (chair), Issa Ilo-Cabiling, Cecilia Ruiz Acosta, Ann Shaw, Annie Summerfield

- Continued to offer to the parish and school communities a confidential service by a registered social worker for parishioners in need of assistance with personal problems.
- Re-launched the Home Visits ministry following the restructuring and renaming.
- Held a gathering to thank and brief the enlarged team of Home Visits ministers to mark the resumption of visits in 2022 as Covid restrictions were lifted.
- Collaboration with St. Michael's School PTA to expand the food bank operation and to solicit food donations for St. Vincent de Paul and Monte Cecilia Housing Trust.

Community Committee

Anna Lu (chair), Judy Aldridge, Marg Farrell

- Organised the social and event management aspects of the 2021 annual meeting.
- Assisted in organising parish gatherings for Home Visits ministers and participants in the Lenten Programme.

90th ANNIVERSARY

The Council set up a special committee to organise celebrations marking the 90th anniversary of the opening of St. Michael's church on 1 October 1933. Members of the committee are Anne Stevenson (chair), Fiona Twomey, Clare Wade, Mike Molloy and Jonathan Spencer. They plan to present a programme that will involve the entire parish community.

PANDEMIC

During the period under review access to our church was again subject to government restrictions in response to the Covi-19 pandemic. For a period of 105 days from 18 August 2021 the church could be open only for private visits by not more than 10 persons at any time. From 3 December 2021 those restrictions were replaced by the Protection Framework (the 'traffic lights' system) under which for a total of 104 days it was only possible to resume the celebration of Mass for limited congregation numbers. Fortunately, that system was lifted with effect from 14 April 2022 (Holy Thursday) so that the Council did not have to proceed with a contingency bookings system to ration places at services for Holy Week and Easter this year. In all, during the review period the parish operated under Covid restrictions for 209 days, which was more than half the twelve months under review.

During these restrictions the Council followed the same policy it adopted at the start of the pandemic: to make Mass available to all parishioners on every day the church could lawfully be open for that purpose. This meant taking all necessary steps within the Covid rules to avoid discrimination against any person regardless of vaccination status. Extra service times and the cooperation of a team of volunteers meant that a place could be offered to every member of the parish who wished to come back to Mass, while fully observing the government regulations regarding social distancing, hygiene and contact tracing. We were again fortunate to have a group of some 20 well-briefed volunteers to manage the procedures, with a team assigned to every Mass to count heads, check vaccine passports and ensure that everyone registered before entry into the church. We are most grateful to them. We also thank the many parishioners who attended the Masses, for the tolerant and cooperative way they followed the procedures.

With the experience gained from Covid pandemic since early 2020 the parish is well prepared to cope with any further government restrictions, should they return. However, we trust that the authorities have also learned from the last two years. We hope that they now better appreciate that restrictions must be flexible. They must recognise that church buildings come in a wide range of sizes and that there should not be one fixed rule for all. They must design rules that accept that faith groups such as St. Michael's parish are competent and most willing to preserve the health and safety of their people without the need for rules demanding that churches be locked or that the number of people who can be let in must be strictly limited.

GOVERNANCE

The key goals that the Council continues to work to achieve in and for the parish are:

- *Evangelisation*: of those outside the Church but also of those in our Catholic community whose practice of the Faith may be faltering or have lapsed.
- *Sacramental*: full participation in the sacraments and parish liturgies.
- *Community*: encouraging all parishioners to become involved in our pastoral ministries and programmes and in the social interaction of the parish.

Under the mechanism of the pastoral plan the Council adopts a programme of goals, objectives and specific action plans. In delivering the plans it seeks to act prudently in using and preserving the assets and resources entrusted to it by the parish and the diocese. The Council welcomes feedback and suggestions from parishioners. In many cases the ideas can be adopted, particularly where they are compatible with the Council's existing programmes and plans and don't involve much extra cost. Sometimes we receive proposals that are short on detail and need further development before they can be considered. Other suggestions are not what we regard to be of sufficiently

high priority. Some would require significant capital expenditure that is unbudgeted and therefore unavailable. In these cases the Council is unable to take the proposals any further.

We must preserve the parish's limited funds for projects that we consider best meet the immediate interests of the parish as a whole. Shortage of funds is a challenge for any Catholic parish council today, for a variety of reasons: the continuing impact of the Covid pandemic; economic, demographic and cultural changes which all too often result in falling parish income; rising costs, especially associated with building maintenance and legal compliance. In recent years your Council has had to dip into reserves to maintain our church while the parish finances are restored.

SACRAMENTS

During the review period new Catholics completed the RCIA programme under the leadership of Frances and Peter Hay-MacKenzie. The parish also welcomed infants who received the sacrament of Baptism and whose parents completed the preparation programme conducted by Pauline loelu. In the first half of 2022 a large number of young people made their first Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist and received the sacrament of Confirmation, all part of the sacramental programme led by Emma Houghton, Deahna Barrington and Pauline loelu. On behalf of the parish I extend to each of them congratulations, a very warm welcome and the wish that they continue to be blessed with an abundance of God's grace. Our thanks to the leaders of the programmes and to the other parishioners who also shared their time and experience in supporting roles.

CLUSTERING

The diocese has told us that parishes in central Auckland will likely need to work together in new structures in the future, and that they should ease this transition by building closer relationships with neighbouring parishes.

The appointment as Parnell parish priest of Fr. Stephen Berecz, for many years resident in the Remuera parish house, has presented an ideal opportunity for the two parishes to cooperate. It has been agreed that Fr. Stephen will continue to celebrate a Sunday Mass at St. Michael's, while Fr. Tony is to be a regular celebrant at St. John's. The timetables have also been aligned to give greater choice of Masses within the two parishes, to avoid any clash of Mass times and to provide emergency cover if a priest becomes unavailable.

Both pastoral councils agree that increased cooperation will be mutually beneficial and that it is logical to do this ahead of the time when it may become necessary.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people give up hours of their time to work on behalf of the parish and to accomplish the range of achievements that are summarised in this report. I record thanks to Fr. Tony and to Fr. Stephen Berecz, to office manager Fiona Twomey, to members of the Pastoral Council and the pastoral committees, to those who serve as ministers for liturgies and as organisers of religious education and caring programmes, to the principal and staff of St. Michael's Catholic School and to all other parishioners who support the parish in a wide variety of ways. Special thanks to Emma Houghton and Deahna Barrington who are standing down after their long-standing leadership of the sacramental programme, and to James loelu for leading the musicians at the splendid concert on 30 July 2021. Thanks and blessings to all.

Jonathan Spencer
Chair, Pastoral Council
30 June 2022