



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 13 August 2023 commencing at 11.15am

Agenda

- Welcome
- Guest Address: Mr Kieran Fouhy
- Pastoral Council report
- Finance Council report
- Open Forum
- Close of meeting

The St Michael's Winter Lunch will follow the meeting from 12.30pm.

ALL WELCOME

Kieran Fouhy was raised on a Wairarapa dairy farm. After graduating from Auckland University (Arts, Science) he spent a period with the Marist Brothers in formation in spirituality/theology and teacher training. Kieran's teaching career spans over 50 years of which 32 have been as headmaster at three Auckland colleges - St Peter's, St Paul's and Sacred Heart. He is highly regarded as an innovative and transformative leader.

Kieran has walked the camino to Santiago de Compostela seven times. His other interests include writing, chemistry and Church. He has received honours from the State (MNZM) and the Church (papal knighthood). Kieran and his wife Dianna are active in pastoral work in the Auckland diocese. They have a family of six daughters, four of whom are teachers, including two directors of religious studies at Catholic schools.

St. Michael's Parish

PASTORAL COUNCIL Report to the 2023 Annual Meeting

This is a report on the activities of the Council and its committees for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 ("review period").

HIGHLIGHTS

- A submission to the diocese on lessons for the Church from the Covid pandemic.
- The annual meeting of 2022 with an address by Fr Justin Taylor sm.
- Planning well advanced for events to mark our church's 90th anniversary in 2023.
- An illustrated guidebook about St Michael's church published.
- Election of a new council.
- A comprehensive new pastoral plan adopted for the parish.
- A committee to plan for likely future contingencies.

COUNCIL

Membership

At the 2022 annual meeting a new council was elected for a three year term: Mark Brightwell (chair), Anne Stevenson (deputy chair), Fr Tony Dunn, Issa Ilo-Cabiling, Josephine Hazel, John Curtin, Ralph Erika, Rob Fonseca-Ensor. Tribute was paid at the meeting to the members of the outgoing council for their valuable contributions to the parish.

2022 Annual Meeting

This was held on Sunday 14 August 2022 with 65 persons attending. Our distinguished guest speaker was Fr Justin Taylor sm who, based on his many years of residence as a biblical scholar in Israel, offered a personal reflection on the political situation in the Holy Land and the current stalemate preventing any settlement between Israel and Palestine. Fr. Justin suggested that a permanent peace may only be possible once individuals achieve peace within themselves.

Pastoral Plan

From September 2022 the Council began a discussions for a new pastoral plan, which was completed and published in March 2023. The plan reflects the Council's three priorities:

- *Mass*: encouraging regular Mass attendance
- *School*: building a stronger relationship between parish and school communities
- *Youth*: supporting an increased parish involvement by young people and families.

Much of the work required to carry out the Council's plan is delegated among the Council's six pastoral committees.

PASTORAL COMMITTEES

The pastoral work of the parish is carried out by the six pastoral committees under the strategic direction of the Council. Each committee has a written charter, is represented at Council meetings and makes a monthly written activity report to the Council. The chairs of the six committees meet monthly to discuss areas of collaboration and support between their committees. They also maintain regular contact with the leaders of St Michael's Catholic School (*SMCS*) about activities of common interest.

The rest of this section gives an outline of each committee's area of responsibility and lists its membership as at 30 June 2023.

Liturgy Committee

Fr Tony Dunn (chair), Tina Fitness, Louise Gordon, James Ioelu, Fiona Twomey
Supports the liturgical services in the church by providing sacristans, readers of the Word, ministers of Holy Communion, laptop operators, collectors, sanctuary carers.

Religious Education Committee

Brenda Brightwell (chair), Nic Nocera, Deacon Mark Rivalland, Philip Tighe-Umbers
Presents programmes for new parents (Baptism preparation), primary school children (Sunday children's liturgy and the Sacramental Programme leading to first Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation), new Catholics (RCIA) and adult parishioners.

Caring and Support Committee

Jane Penney (chair), Maureen Glassey, Ann Shaw, Annie Summerfield
Conducts ministries aimed at assisting the vulnerable in the parish and community: taking Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and infirm, organising the collection and distribution of donations for the parish food bank, providing a confidential counselling service.

Community Committee

Josephine Hazel (chair), Cynthia Agustin, Marg Farrell, Anna Lu, Marie Olvido, Hilda Tan, Venus Yu. Organises a wide range of social and other activities, supports to the other committees, provides many opportunities for parishioners to participate in the life of the parish.

Communications Committee

Jonathan Spencer (chair), Mark Brightwell, Issa Ilo-Cabiling, Mike Oughton, Fiona Twomey
Supports the ability of the parish to communicate with its members especially by the use of new technology.

Youth Committee

Jonathan Spencer (chair), Lane Molloy, Teresa Cordtz, Rob Fonseca-Ensor
Provides opportunities for younger parishioners to meet and participate in a range of activities that combine both social and pastoral purposes.

PASTORAL PLAN

Upon its appointment in August 2022 the Council began detailed discussions for a new pastoral plan based around the Council's three priorities. The plan was completed and published in March 2023. The full text of the plan was sent to all parish members on the parish roll. It is available on the parish website and on the noticeboard in the church porch. The plan clearly records what the Council sees as fundamental to maintaining the strength of the parish and the practice of the Faith. These priorities are:

- *Mass*: encouraging regular Mass attendance
- *School*: building a stronger relationship between parish and school communities
- *Youth*: supporting an increased parish involvement by young people and families.

Pastoral Plan Projects

Each pastoral committee has set its objectives and agreed on action steps and tactics to implement these priorities within its area of responsibility. Preparations began even before the plan was published and have resulted in a busy programme of activities many of them specifically designed to give effect to the three priorities. Here is a list of these activities in the review period, most of them the result of efforts by the Community and Religious Education Committees:

- a Thanksgiving joint parish and SMCS social event on 20 November 2022
- a parishioner survey
- publication of a parish directory of ministries and programmes
- a welcome pack of information for new parishioners
- the formation of a community group for each Sunday Mass
- socials after each Mass (8am, 10am and 5pm) on the first Sunday of the month
- the launch of a podcast service through the parish website
- tours of the church for SMCS pupils, conducted by parishioners
- a joint parish and SMCS social event on 26 March to mark the start the school year
- the Easter Egg Hunt and sausage sizzle on Easter Sunday morning, 9 April
- surprise flower gift to mothers on Mother's Day, 14 May
- the Cultural Diversity Potluck on 21 May
- a prayer intentions box in the church porch
- the growth in number and participation of prayer groups
- the prayer to St Michael the Archangel is now recited after each weekday Mass
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following each weekday 7am Mass
- a rosary group at SMCS
- the 2023 Lenten Programme conducted by Fr Chris Skinner sm
- visits to pack emergency food boxes at the Vinnies' warehouse in Onehunga
- Holy Hour each month with Adoration and Benediction.

90th ANNIVERSARY

St Michael's church was blessed and opened in October 1933. A committee has a plan well advanced to mark the 90th anniversary in October 2023. The committee members are Anne Stevenson (chair), Louise Gordon, Lane Flynn Molloy, Mike Molloy and Jonathan Spencer.

The Anniversary Mass will be held in the church from 11.00am on Sunday 15 October. The celebrant will be His Excellency Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, the apostolic nuncio. The homily will be delivered by Monsignor Bernard Kiely. Several choirs will provide the music under the direction of James Ioelu. The invitation list for the day's events will include a number of priests as co-celebrants, diocesan representatives, clergy from neighbouring faith communities and many current and former parishioners. The Anniversary Lunch will follow at 12.30pm. It will have an Italian theme to recognise the Romanesque style of our church and its Italianate design features.

In December 2022 the parish published an illustrated guide to the church. This fully illustrated book is designed to be more than just a valuable souvenir of the anniversary. It is a way to help readers, whether parishioners or visitors, to appreciate and understand better the significance and beauty of the many items of religious and artistic interest in and around the church and to lead each of them to a closer relationship with God.

GOVERNANCE

In delivering the pastoral plan the Council is required to act prudently in using and preserving the assets and resources entrusted to it by the parish and the diocese. Two central actions in the review period have been the development of the parish pastoral plan and the formation of the Contingency Committee, both of which are discussed in this report.

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.

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 legacy and 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.

During the review period the Council set up a sub-committee to consider how the parish should respond to a number of possible future events. This Contingency Committee comprises Mark Brightwell (chair), Fr Tony Dunn and Issa Ilo-Cabiling. It has been assisted in its work to date by Terisa Cordtz, Tina Fitness and Fiona Twomey. The committee is also working the give effect to a diocesan request that the Remuera and Parnell parishes look for areas where they can cooperate. This work has led to identifying a number of possible synergies, which are being realised in areas such as liturgical support, communications, office administration and pastoral programmes.

SACRAMENTS

During the review period new Catholics completed the RCIA programme under the leadership of Frances and Peter Hay-MacKenzie and with the assistance of Hilda Tan. The parish also welcomed infants who received the sacrament of Baptism and whose parents completed the preparation programme conducted by Pauline Ioelu. In the first half of 2023 a large number of young people took part in meetings that will lead, later in the year, to their first Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist and the sacrament of Confirmation; all part of the sacramental programme led by Pauline and James Ioelu. The names of the candidates are recorded in the appendix to this report. 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 in these essential programmes.

IN MEMORIAM

The appendix also shows the names of those whose funerals took place in St Michael's church during the review period. Let us give thanks to God for their lives and their many and varied contributions to the parish. May they rest in peace.

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 Father Tony, to office manager Fiona Twomey, to members of the Pastoral Council and all the committees, to those who serve as ministers for liturgies and organisers of religious education and caring programmes, to the principal and staff of SMCS, to all other parishioners who support the parish in a wide variety of ways. Thanks and blessings to all.

Mark Brightwell

Chair, Pastoral Council

30 June 2023

MILESTONES

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Baptisms

Grayson D’Cruz, Adeline Hargreaves, Sophie Hargreaves, Harry George, Jace Holden, Elise Tse, Evelyn Tse, Isabella Roos, Anna Tse, Mia Ioelu, Montgomery Harvey, Joshua Blackmore, Mila Blackmore, Lydia Macdonald, Minjun Jeong, Alessandra Rudolph, Madeleine Rudolph, Travis Wells, Chloe Yan, Sophie Royce, Laura Kennerley, Charlotte Kennerley, Marcus Kennerley, Edmund Kennerley, Victor Kennerley, Walter Kennerley, Benjamin, Grant, Rafferty Fisher, Georgette Fisher, Arthur Godwin, Amelia Gray, Ezra Loming, Alexandra Gibb, Adrien Mercader, Neil Perdiguerra, Aaliyah Castle, Mateo Vegar, Estella Naumov, Robert Naumov, Adeliya Brandi, Nico Williams, Luka Williams, Nathaniel Mar, Rosie Ampong, Philippa Warren, Louis Daly, Freya Chute, Miles Palines, Elena Calvert, Margot Kennedy, Eleanor Nagasawa-Curtis, Alina Pepper, Emily Rothwell, Charlize Rothwell, Rose Munkowits, Giovanni Pearson, Ethan Bonus, Mia Botte, Oscar Cairns

Weddings

Yvette Hill-Willis & Stephen O’Halloran, Lily Vernau & Tauriq Barron, Mia Hernandez & Christopher Hooton, Nina Zeng & Randal D’Souza, Gunnie Rajpal & Jervis Silveira, Georgina van Schaijik & Ian Havill, Rebecca Kassir & Salam Iwaz, Kelly Cocks & Dany Rassam, Natacha Bilty & Royan Roy, Lea Abuyan & Christopher Uy

Funerals

Beverly Cibulskis, Brian Du Flou, Richard Barker, John Hill, Valerie Serage, Rachael Burn, Patricia Wilson, Denis McKay, Brendan Hoyle, Brian Clegg, Nyra Harriman, Victoria Cullen, Joseph Viskovich, Rosemary Christie, Mark Bebich, Athol Munro, Graham Lincoln, Mary Browne, Trevor Arnold, Sylvia Keenan, Annette Linehan, Elizabeth Taumoepeau

Sacramental Programme 2023

Lucas Loy, Daniela Travaglia, Grace Reilly, Maddie Kerr, Grace Gordon, Delilah Campbell, Conor Sigley, Joshua Blackmore, Delilah Burrett, Ethan Zazulak-Baker, Aydin Loong, Emma Tuck, Oliver Carter, Angela Angland, Matisse Todd, India Todd, Zac Calladine, Heidi Carter, Veronica Russell-Park, Fifi Somaratne, Henry Roberts, Dominic Vivanco-Coutts, Louie Coffey, Olivia Botherway, Mila Batchelor, Hope Massey, Harry Smith, Drew Coulter, Beatrice Faigao, Erin Faigao, Harry Charles Batchelor, Julian Betham, James Faigao, Ayla Nacewa Kurimavua, Alex Ward, Jack Delahunty, Athena Faye Dela Rosa, Athena Sequera, Veronique Itoh, Suri Lee, Alexander Goh, Michaela Chu, Issac Cheung, Grace Scott, Aayden Wong Yan Chi, Thomas Ellis, Sienna Wan, Astrid Burt, Viola Elise Gonzales, Augustine Mamo, Adela Slavich, Georgia Hickey, Charlie Nicholls, Thomas Ritchie, Ava Ambrosio (Ella), Rosie Hazel, Manu Gatmaitan, Elena Templeton, Yiku Reynes Yap, Laila Wethasinghe, Zoe Zhou, Louis Arbuckle, Hannah Kong Kiu Lam, Chuo Lan Kristen SU, My Khanh HA, Zara Molly Lockington, Carl Soliman