

To : All Parishioners of St. Anthony's Parish, Seatoun and Strathmore

St. Anthony's Parish Pastoral Plan 2010-2014 -- Short Summary

Introduction

On 3 March 2010, your Parish Council approved and signed off the St. Anthony's Parish Pastoral Plan 2010-2014 having received widespread endorsement from parishioners from earlier drafts and consultation. The plan will gradually be implemented by our parish groups and parishioners.

Vision, Goals and Action

St. Anthony's Parish Seatoun intends to be one of the best parishes in meeting the sacramental, spiritual, pastoral, and educational needs of our parishioners of all ages.

The purpose of the plan is to set out the attributes and activities which will characterise Seatoun parish as 'one of the best' in meeting the faith and community needs of its parishioners over the next five years. Our vision, goals and action areas will be implemented by our parish groups to build up faith and community. We will be guided by our Purpose Statement of *"Together our laity and priest actively building and nourishing our parish faith and community"*.

The plan sets out the range of action areas which the parish will look to implement over the next five years in order to achieve our goals which are :-

(i) Goal: Create and celebrate vibrant liturgies, which have meaning for the people who attend and are inclusive

1. Develop diverse liturgies and music
2. Enhance our Church imagery
3. Educate our people in faith and liturgy

(ii) Goal : Explore and endeavour to meet the needs of all age groups in our parish to grow their faith.

4. Investigate Pre-School Groups
5. Develop Youth Plan
6. Enrich School/Parish Connection
7. Strengthen Parish/ Samoan Community Relationships

(iii) Goal : Help, support and be inclusive to all in need.

8. Strengthen links with St Vincent de Paul Society
9. Assess and Meet Needs of Parish Community
10. Bereavement Assistance

(iv) Goal : Communication and participation, becoming connected and caring for the Parish.

11. Encourage Participation
12. Refocus Gascoigne Scholarship
13. Organise Social Events
14. Develop Communications Plan
15. Prepare and Manage Parish Plan
16. Manage Parish Finances

We have many people with the talent, energy and good faith who will provide the effective leadership to cater for the diverse needs of our parish community. They will provide the succession of leaders who will meet the challenges ahead. We will engage part time specialists for developing youth and seniors' activities. Better communication in the parish will be critical so that everyone knows 'who's who' and what's happening.

Faith

St. Anthony's parishioners will remain devoted followers of Christ's and the Catholic Church's teachings. We will encourage active participation by all people in the Liturgy and support of our music, in order to promote a deep and living love for the Sacred Scripture. To offset the shortage of priests and religious we intend to develop some of our talented people into lay pastoral workers and meet costs of their training. We will also use modern media (DVD) to promote and distribute Liturgy.

We will work with our young people to find new and creative ways for sharing the Gospel with them, and become more 'youth friendly'.

Our parish is enriched by its vibrant Samoan community in the Strathmore Ekalesia (village) who do things in their own way according to their cultural traditions. They are an evangelising church with lots of new believers. For them, the continued relevance and upkeep of the Good Shepherd Hall is central to the nurturing of the faith of their young people.

Ministeries

Our parish priest in Seatoun is available on a part-time basis only for limited parish work. In line with the downward trend, only two priests will likely be available in time to cover Masses and the sacraments in the three parishes of Wellington East (Seatoun, Miramar, Kilbirnie).

A large measure of responsibility for nourishing our faith and community development therefore is already shifting to parish and area laity. More cooperation with our neighbouring parishes will occur. Sensitive understanding will be required by priests and laity of our complimentary roles.

Community

We will continue to support our solid range of faith and community groups who have increasingly accepted responsibility for leading and organising parish activities. We will enhance participation of all our parish community so their diverse needs are catered for - newcomers, youth, children, Samoan, young parents, elderly, sick, poor, needy, lonely, or isolated.

We will do more to support our youth to feel special and have time and space to express their faith in their ways, and a part-time youth leader will assist in developing our youth.

Resources

Our Finance Committee is already moving St Anthony's Parish from a serious cash operating deficit to a balanced financial position through deferring building maintenance, rationalising our priest's accommodation, proceeds of the Bazaar, the Archdiocese providing the priest's car, readers subscribing directly to the NZ Catholic, and encouraging parishioners to make their planned giving more regular by automatic payment. In the medium term, development and sale of vacant land for housing behind Good Shepherd Hall will provide funding for initiatives and parish operations.

Information about the plans and issues of the Kilbirnie and Miramar parishes will be sought on an ongoing basis so that our present and future mutual interests can be assured, and there are no surprises.

Responsibilities

Your Parish Council is in the process of prioritising the action areas and encouraging the respective parish groups and key parishioners to make a start on the priorities. The Parish Council will provide active leadership of the plan which will become part and parcel of their role, including an evaluation of progress by December each year and shared planning with Miramar and Kilbirnie parishes. There are several issues that will be constantly addressed and monitored by the Parish Council so that change proceeds effectively and people feel supported.

I urge all parishioners to actively support our mission of *"Together our laity and priest actively building and nourishing our parish faith and community"*.

Kevin Marshall
Chair, St. Anthony's Parish Council