

Prayer

Gentle and gracious Father, I come before you seeking your presence to INCREASE MY FAITH so that I may take an active role in the ongoing life of our Parish Family, to INCREASE MY HOPE so that I can be an effective witness to our parishioners about our life together, and to INCREASE MY LOVE that I may come to appreciate the commitment of all parishioners to our Parish Family. We all have the awesome responsibility to continue to build a Community of Faith upon the long-standing traditions that have been passed on to us by those who have gone before us. Give us the courage to continue to follow in the footsteps of your Son the Lord Jesus, and fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit so that we can become true witnesses to the Catholic Faith that binds us together as one family.

May our love of the Parish Family of Our Lady of the Assumption, and our adherence to all that is required of us be a living witness to those who come after us! This we seek through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son the Lord Jesus both of whom live and reign with You as a triune God forever and ever.

AMEN.



Let us place this plan and our journey for the future under the leadership and guidance of our Patroness "Our Lady Assumed into Heaven, Mary the Mother of God".



**OUR LADY
OF THE ASSUMPTION
PARISH, ONEHUNGA.
Pastoral Plan 2017 - 2020**



Letter from the Parish Priest

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The dedicated work of our Parish Pastoral Council reaches a new height with the development of this Parish Pastoral Plan. The many hours that each of its members has given to this project is only one indication of how significant this Plan is for the ongoing life of our Parish Family. Within the context of this Plan there is an invitation for every parishioner to become acquainted with the direction that it indicates for all of us to follow. This Plan becomes an inspiration for all parishioners committed to the Parish Family of Our Lady of the Assumption in Onehunga. It encourages all to take an active role in offering their time, talent and treasure to assist in moving forward our future parish life as outlined in the many facets of the Plan itself.

Driven by the Mission Statement that so clearly indicates the life of our Parish Family, this Parish Pastoral Plan translates into actions the way in which this Mission Statement can be best experienced as the driving force of our parish life. There is no doubt that the Parish Pastoral Council has given many hours of behind the scene work to the development of this Plan, but now it needs the awareness of all parishioners to make sure that it becomes an effective means of deepening our relationship with the Lord Jesus. In the magnificent traditions that our Parish Family has had over these past one hundred and seventy seven years, this Parish Pastoral Plan presents an undeniable assurance that our parish life will continue for many years to come.

In reading this Parish Pastoral Plan, it will become clear that it calls for all of us, the parish clergy and staff, parish organisations/ministries, parishioners, young and old and in between, to commit ourselves to the future of our parish. The Pastoral Plan is not a list of promises or a wish list, it describes commitments, or rather, one multifaceted commitment that we are all making to one another and to God, to live more fully as the Body Of Christ. This Plan overflows with opportunities to be generous with your time and your talent. None of us can do everything suggested in this Plan, but all of us can do something, for God is with us and we have one another.

Please read the Parish Pastoral Plan prayerfully and seriously consider where God might be calling you to act. As you read and pray over this Plan, I hope your heart will leap at one point or another, and that you will feel the Spirit suggesting how you can help. There is a role for each one of you and together we can do something beautiful for God.

“God Our Father does not inspire us to do what cannot be done” (St. Therese of Lisieux).

Let us now begin to work together to accomplish His goals for our Parish.

With a deep sense of gratitude. I wish to thank the current members of the Parish Pastoral Council who have worked so diligently to create this Parish Pastoral Plan . It is my hope that future Parish Pastoral Council members will continue to maintain the tradition that builds on the foundation created by this Plan. Finally, I ask all parishioners, present and future, to continue to offer their personal prayers that the Parish Family of Our Lady of the Assumption in Onehunga will always be guided by a Plan that keeps the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus at the centre of our parish life.

Yours Sincerely in Christ Jesus

Fr. Andrew Atonio mf (Parish Priest)

GOAL 2: To establish a Financial policy for the Parish.

Objective 1

To set up an inventory of the means and assets of the Parish, and establish how best to protect them.

Objective 2

To explore possible ways to improve Parish finances.

Objective 3

To produce a budget for each year of the Parish Pastoral Plan cycle (2017 – 2020).

Objective 4

To report to the whole parish on its financial position at least annually and also at such other times as deemed necessary.

GOAL 3: To assure the responsibility of implementing the Parish Pastoral Plan over the next three years.

Objective 1

To ensure all relevant groups and committees are committed to carrying out the areas of the Parish Pastoral Plan that pertain to them.

Objective 2

To have a Parish gathering within three months of the implementation of the Parish Pastoral Plan to present it to all parishioners.

Objective 3

To have further Parish gatherings in Year 2 and Year 3 of the Parish Pastoral Plan cycle to evaluate progress and make any modifications necessary.

Objective 4

To endeavour to ensure continuity of the Parish Pastoral Plan if there should be a change of Parish Priest within the three year cycle.

GOAL 3: To Reach out to those are outside our Community.**Objective 1**

To endeavour to find ways to encourage the return of those who have shared our Faith journey in the past but have fallen away.

Objective 2

To establish programmes, such as RCIA, to instruct those who are showing interest in the Catholic Faith.

Objective 3

To reach out, in some way, to those who suffer from spiritual and material poverty.

GOAL 4: To encourage and support relationships with other Christian Churches and those of other faiths.**Objective 1**

To find ways to pray and meet with those who share our Christian Faith and work beside them in outreach activities.

Objective 2

To explore possible ways of starting dialogue with those of different Belief Systems within our local region.

PLANNING AND STRUCTURE

“ There are many different gifts but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. Now Christ’s body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the *whole*”.
1 Cor: 12: 4-6, 27

GOAL 1: To optimise the current structure of our Parish so that it remains well organised according to Canon Law and the Diocesan guidelines, including relevant Health and Safety Regulations.**Objective 1**

To continue to strive to have an efficient and well-running Parish.

Objective 2

To promote the active participation of Parishioners in developing the Parish by becoming involved in committees and Parish groups.

Objective 3

To maintain and implement up-to-date records of recommended procedures relating to Health and Safety matters.

Vision Statement

“You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matt. 5: 14, 16

Mission Statement

We, the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption Onehunga, in accordance with our Parish Pastoral Plan here stated, seek to achieve:

Growth in **Faith**, leading to a deeper relationship with God
A radiant **Hope**, to inspire and encourage those around us
A deepening **Love** for God and one another and for all those whom we encounter.

We will do this by:

Personal Conversion, renewal, reform
Being strengthened through the Mass and the Sacraments
Serving the needs of others
Constantly looking to Mary our Mother for inspiration and guidance
Becoming “Fit for Mission”

Areas of Pastoral Priority

Liturgy and the Eucharist Spirituality and formation

Evangelisation and Mission Planning and structure

LITURGY AND THE EUCHARIST

“God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.” John 4:24. Basic to the faith life of our parish community is its great act of worship - the liturgy. It challenges and celebrates our relationship with God, with one another and with the world. Liturgy is at the very core of our parish life. Our parish must strive to make its liturgy a true celebration of our relationship with God. The community must recognise the liturgy as the core of our parish life and strive for excellence in the formation of all liturgical ministries.

GOAL 1: To improve our liturgical celebrations, especially our Eucharistic celebrations, by means of on-going formation and more active participation.

Objective 1

To establish uniformity and discipline in all liturgical celebrations, following the liturgical instructions of the universal Church and of the Diocese, in order to give increasing value to our celebrations and improve the quality of the participation of the faithful.

Objective 2

To raise general consciousness of Sunday as the Day of the Lord and promote assistance in Sunday celebrations and all other liturgical celebrations, in order to fortify the sense of belonging to an ecclesiastical community.

Objective 3

To strengthen the atmosphere of the sacredness of the Mass and foster greater reverence and improved spiritual experience by including more opportunities for prayer and silence.

Objective 4

To develop and strengthen devotion to the Eucharist by providing more frequent and varied opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration.

Objective 5

To strengthen and establish permanently in the life of the parish the Multicultural Celebration on 5th Sundays of the month, Where these occur, and to ensure that individuals of all cultures feel welcome within the community.

Objective 1

To formulate a prayer for vocations in the context of the Parish.

Objective 2

To appoint a spiritual leader or leaders to assist the youth to understand vocations.

Objective 3

To include in all the meetings for young people a moment to pay attention to vocations.

Objective 4

To have an annual programme focused on vocations, especially for the young of the Parish.

EVANGELISATION AND MISSION

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you.” Matt. 18: 19-20.

GOAL 1: To interpret the “Plan for Evangelisation and Mission” of the Parish in the context of Evangelii Gaudium.

Objective 1

To form Parish groups to study and appreciate the Papal exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium,” and our Bishop’s Diocesan Pastoral Plan, in order to have a firm foundation for Evangelisation and Mission.

Objective 2

To encourage and provide for Parishioners to enrich their own spiritual lives, so that they really understand what it means to go forth to share these riches with others.

GOAL 2: To promote a vocation ministry at the parish level, with the aim of obtaining more local priests and religious, in the interests of the Kingdom of God.

Objective 1

To become more aware of and support (spiritually and materially) those working in poorer Mission areas within the Universal Church.

Objective 2

To invite returning Missionaries to share with our Parish their experiences of Evangelisation and Mission in other areas of the world.

C) PASTORAL EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOL

GOAL 1: To promote and support Catholic education as a foundation of Faith in the Parish of Onehunga.

Objective 1

To establish better communication among parish, priests and teachers via a concrete plan that aims to result in more structured and more frequent contact with the school.

D) YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL PASTORAL CARE

GOAL 1: To formulate and promote an educational faith programme related to the specific environments in which young people are currently living.

Objective 1

To develop an integrated teaching programme, illuminated by faith and ecclesiastical doctrine, which deals with the daily realities that youth are experiencing.

Objective 2

To promote the integrated education of youth on love and sexuality, according to Christian morality.

Objective 3

To ensure that Youth Pastoral Training accompanies the adolescent or youth throughout his/her human and Christian development to facilitate becoming an active member of our Church and society.

GOAL 2: To promote a vocation ministry at the parish level, with the aim of obtaining more local priests and religious, in the interests of the Kingdom of God.



GOAL 2: To realise a Liturgy formation that is continuous for ministries, choirs and all the faithful.

Objective 1

To organise formative and explanatory meetings on the various liturgical celebrations for all the faithful.

Objective 2

To provide on-going spiritual and liturgical formation for liturgical ministers, including twice-yearly seminars for Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors on the Word and Sacraments (Compendium of the Catholic Church).

Objective 3

To foster a new approach to Sacred Music that generates a prayerful atmosphere instead of simply being transition music or cover for non-verbal procedures.

Objective 4

To provide for all choirs a directory of music appropriate for the various seasons and feasts and to organise at least once-yearly workshops for the choirs.

GOAL 3: To enhance the spirituality and faith of the community through their participation in celebrations other than the Mass.

Objective 1

To continue to offer more frequent opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, most especially during the penitential seasons (Advent and Lent).

Objective 2

To foster greater participation in and use of the Liturgy of the Hours during parish Adoration and at other devotional opportunities throughout the year (Advent, Lent and Holy Week).

Objective 3

To provide various and varied opportunities to celebrate the major devotions customary and familiar to the local church (Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Novenas, Stations of the Cross and various sacramentals).

GOAL 4: To promote a vibrant formation for Altar Servers and Ushers in order to offer more life and solemnity to our celebrations.

Objective 1

To develop a training programme for ushers/greeters to make a welcoming impression upon parishioners and visitors as they arrive at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

Objective 2

To create the position of Master of Ceremonies for the Altar Servers who will meet with the priests for instructions on preparation for Mass and on special occasions and events.

Objective 3

To provide twice-yearly seminars and retreats for Altar Servers on the subject of the Eucharist and other sacraments and ceremonies. Attendance at these to be compulsory.

Objective 4

To develop an Altar Servers Schola Cantorum to provide opportunities for them to sing during the parish liturgy celebrations when appropriate.

SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)

The four pillars of Spirituality and Formation are:

A) CATECHESIS

B) THE FAMILY - THE FIRST SCHOOL OF FAITH

C) PASTORAL EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOL

D) YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL PASTORAL CARE

A) CATECHESIS

GOAL 1: To actualise catechesis on all levels - child, youth and adult - and so bring all parishioners to a better understanding of our Catholic Church, in order to extend the maturity of our faith.

Objective 1

To make child, youth and adult catechism a continuous, integral and differentiated plan/process of formation using models approved in our Parish and Diocese.

GOAL 2: To ensure that the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” is known among all the faithful.

Objective 1

To organise and promote in our Parish courses on the “Catechism” at the various relevant levels.

B) THE FAMILY - THE FIRST SCHOOL OF FAITH

GOAL 1: To ensure that marriage is promoted as a pillar of the church community, and remains a lively and authentic home centre for the transfer of evangelism and faith to successive generations. To ensure also that the family is a sanctuary that protects life.

Objective 1

To form a Marriage Preparation Team, consisting of the Priest and a married couple, to promote the practice of the faith in marriage and faithfulness to the plan of the Creator.

Objective 2

To follow up on ongoing pastoral care programmes for the formation of couples and families.

GOAL 2: To form a Parish Team that gives support to couples and families in the context of the policy on Family Pastoral Care.

Objective 1

To develop a three-year programme for Family Pastoral Care, focused on the personal formation of the individuals involved in families and couples.

Objective 2

To encourage all families in our parish community to live as “domestic churches”.

Objective 3

To recruit married couples, especially those experiencing difficulties, to attend “Marriage Encounter Weekends”.

Objective 4

To promote the creation of mutual support groups for married couples in the Parish.