

## A G M REPORT - HIBISCUS COAST PARISH

2019

This year has been very productive for the Parish Council. Having spent the second half of last year working out the needs of the Parish and existing groups and what each group's needs were and where there were gaps, the PPC has spent the first half of this year implementing what we believe were the gaps in the Parish. To this end we are very excited to report on several new initiatives that have begun this year. To help give us guidance and to ensure we were all working towards the same outcome we wrote a new Parish mission statement, which is "Karere o Te Rongo Pai. To be messengers of the Gospel through our Faith, Love and Service. Whakapono, Aroha, Awhina". This has been printed in our Newsletter and appears in the entrance ways of both churches.

Under the guidance of Tania Alofaki, Flavia Widiandi and Kathy Ellery we now have a thriving Youth Group within the Parish. This has been very well received and the work of these three people and other volunteers in the Parish is to be applauded. We are acutely aware that the Parish has been talking about and asking for a youth group for a long time, and it is wonderful that we are able to now report a productive and growing youth group. As the youth group becomes larger and stronger the Parish Council intends to support initiatives by the Liturgy Committee for the implementation of youth Masses.

Another initiative that had wide support from within the Parish was the implementation of a Welcome Ministry at St John's. St Francis has long had an excellent Welcome Ministry but the intention of how it had run at St John's had become unreliable with only a couple of people being 'welcomers', and no formal roster or guidelines on how they operate. I (Claire Buckley, in conjunction with Anne Murphy) wrote a Parish policy for the Welcome Ministry. We put a call out to the Parish to encourage people to become involved as it was a ministry we saw that could be for families as they could all greet and usher together. To this end we have 3 families now on the roster for St John's 10.15 Mass, and over 15 other volunteers across the 2 Masses at St John's. We have a new Welcome Ministry Co-ordinator for St John's who is Bruce Hume, and he is being assisted by Dafanie Goldsmith. We believe that having these ministries working across the Parish we hope to make the Parish feel more like a community. Also, people who arrive late to Mass are able to easily find seats using the ushers. This is still in the early stages at St John's but is being very well received and the general feeling as you walk into the Churches for Mass, is very cheerful and welcoming. We see this as a chance to make sure new parishioners meet the community and have the opportunity to become involved. We also hope this leads to a stronger Parish with a good community feel, somewhere people feel welcome and connected to other parishioners.

Our third initiative is forming a Faith Formation Committee to oversee all the various groups within the Parish that work in the Faith Formation area to ensure that they are supported and that courses that are run can dovetail into other groups or courses on offer. We are very keen as a Parish Council to have continuity across these courses, such as the Alpha course, that they are regenerative, not only for the people participating to deepen their faith, but those who complete the course and would like to be directly involved next time will be encouraged to join the team and be supported into running an Alpha course in the future. We see having a Faith Formation committee as a way to ensure that Alpha courses and other faith forming courses are not run in isolation or reliant on the same people to run them constantly. It is also envisioned that this committee will support the Sacramental Programme, RCIA and RCIC as all these groups have been run independently previously and without the support of a Parish Council. By having a Faith Formation Committee, we hope that there is an extra layer of support for all these vital groups who then can use the Faith Formation Committee to organise a calendar year of events. This will also mean there is continuity of programmes. I would like to thank Mike de la Fuente and Deacon Greg Murphy for the work they are putting in to forming this committee. The Parish Council intends for faith formation to be a large driving factor in our coming year's work.

The Parish is now well represented within the Diocese. We have Kathy Ellery from our Parish Council representing Hibiscus Coast Parish at the Regional Pastoral Council. In fact, Kathy today is hosting this meeting as we meet for this AGM. We thank Kathy for her work on the extra committee and enjoy the valuable information and feedback we receive from these meetings and ideas for our own Parish.

The Parish Council is also keeping up with changes to policy from the Diocese about how to keep our churches safe. To this end we are now police vetting all those involved with our youth, children's liturgy and sacramental programmes. There has been an indication from the Diocese that further changes may be made including auditing of the Parish in regards to safety. Therefore, it may be required in the future for us to police vet any of our volunteers who are working with the vulnerable within our Parish and this may extend to people who take Holy Communion to the sick. The Parish Council will keep the Parish up to date with these changes as they come in.

The Diocesan Parish Survey results are now available. These can be read online from our website or in hard copy in the Parish entrance ways. They are quite comprehensive documents and the Parish Council has spent some time interpreting the data that relates specifically to our Parish. The Diocese has indicated that these surveys will become a regular occurrence, but that in the future, they will be simplified.

Through Kathy Ellery's attendance at the Regional Pastoral Council we have begun to review the way our Newsletter is formatted. It has been provisionally decided that we will change the format from a double sided A4 into a double sided A3, folded in half. This change will allow for one side of the Newsletter to be pre-printed and we can source sponsors for the back page of the Newsletter. It is hoped that the sponsorship will cover the cost of the change to format. A subcommittee of Gavin Bell (PPC secretary) and Kevin Farrell (Finance Committee) who will look into this to refine the details of the change and ultimately source advertisers.

The Parish Council is also supporting the reinstatement of the Family Mass by the Liturgy Committee.

This Mass will take place at 10.15 every month that has a 5th Sunday. Throughout the year, our Parish programmes have been run ably directed by an army of volunteers: The Care and Share Committee, Serving Spoons, RCIA and RCIC, and The Sacramental Programme. This is a large Parish and it takes a lot of volunteers to ensure that everything from Masses through to Serving Spoons and the Children's Liturgy to everything in-between runs smoothly. Naming everyone would take more time than we allow in these AGMs, but the Council wants everyone, who gives of their time, to know that they are appreciated, and that we know that our Parish could not have all these wonderful programmes and initiatives without the help of so many people. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make this Parish year so successful and we hope that 2019/2020 is just as successful.

Thank you to all members of the PPC for their ongoing work and expertise, and to Fr Emile who has brought a very fresh perspective, deep wisdom and I know that every member of the Parish will benefit from the many gifts Fr Emile brings us, not the least of which is kindness. Which is so often overlooked in modern society.

As a PPC we continue to invite suggestions from the Parish for ideas and initiatives they would like to see in the Parish. Our ministry as a Parish Council is to serve you as a Parish, certainly not to rule you, so we would welcome all ideas. We also have vacancy on the Parish Council so if anyone feels called to serve with us, please approach any member of the committee, or Fr Emile directly, and indicate your desire to serve. Often people feel they could serve but don't want to push themselves forward, if you know someone who you believe would serve our Parish well, then maybe give them a quiet nudge or suggest them directly to the PPC so we can approach them directly.

May the Holy Spirit guide us in our actions for the coming year, and may God bless you all.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for all you are doing in the Parish.