



**Eastern Bays
Catholic**

Mother of Perpetual Help & St Ignatius Parishes



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ST IGNATIUS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
SUNDAY 30th JUNE 2024
ANNUAL REPORTS

Parish Priest – Father John Dunn



It is with much pride that I commend to you these reports of your Parish Councillors and your Parish Operations Manager. In reading them you can see not only what has been happening in your parish, but also what love, devotion and care they have demonstrated for you. Together with you, I thank them with all my heart.

I wish to thank on my and your behalf our Parish Council Co-chairs, Kim Ballinger and Helen Partington. They have supported me and led the Council tirelessly and with love in this year. A special thank-you to Kim who is retiring. You have been special.

Our parish has had a good year. We work hard to be a Christian faith community that shares God's love for everyone. We work on the principle that it is your parish, and that it is a lay-led parish. This needs a Parish Council to lead with wisdom, and for each of you to offer your gifts of ministry and service. This coming year is going to be a challenging year, and we will need your active involvement. If your time is now, please get involved!

We also need to pay attention to Mission. If our Church is to thrive it must become more involved in the wider community. Each of you, as a missionary of Christ, should be a member of some community enterprise which will advance the well-being of our community, our country, and indeed of our world. I don't need to tell you the issues.

The future for our whole Diocese and hence our parish is not yet clear. In fidelity to Pope Francis, Bishop Steve wants to proceed in a synodal (journeying together) way, in a process based on prayer and common discernment. (Check it out on <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod>). Bishop Steve has indicated that he wants ultimately to reshape the Diocese according to four themes: Reshaping the Diocese as a whole; Reshaping Parishes, Schools, Communities and Agencies; Reshaping people – Laity, Religious, Priests; and Reshaping Liturgy. We have seen a little of the latter with our starting Lay Leaders of Prayer. We are all awaiting Bishop Steve's guidance in these days.

I continue to be both privileged and delighted to serve you as your parish priest. I thank you for your love, care and prayers. My prayer is that it continues to be faithful in its following of Jesus Christ in a contemporary and missionary manner.

Co-Chairs – Kim Ballinger and Helen Partington



Our primary role is to ensure our parish is delivering to the strategic vision of St Ignatius Parish, “To be a Christian faith community that reflects God’s love for everyone”. Guided by the wisdom of our Pope, Pope Francis, we have six strategic goals that support this vision - a)

Inclusion, b) Gathering, c) Leadership, d) Education and formation, e) Mission and f) Synodality and Change. The Parish Council reviews these priorities and ensures we are aligned to the philosophies that Pope Francis has expressed - “Humility in listening corresponds to courage in speaking” and “Only dialogue can help us grow”.

Parish Council Progress 2023-2024

As a Parish Council we are proud of the progress we have made this year, June 2023 to June 2024.

Accordingly, we, the council are always seeking to improve how we operate. In response to your feedback from the AGM in June 2023 - “we don’t know who is on the Parish Council” and “we don’t know what progress is being made by the council” - we have established a Parish Council communications sub-committee. Actions taken by the committee include:

- The introduction of the Parish Council members at weekend masses
- The development of name badges for council members to wear during mass (thanks to Matt Prasad & Pip Block)
- A new notice board with informative content in the Parish Centre (thanks to Pip Block and Helen Partington)
- The establishment of quarterly Parish Council updates, shared via the weekly newsletter
- Revamping the weekly newsletter (thanks to Matt Prasad)

With less disruption from Covid and the ability to focus on one parish only, the Parish Council was able to re-establish key council sub-committees of:

- Hospitality (led by Paul Lynex)
- Children's liturgy (led by Eugene Rush)
- Justice and Peace (led by Dan Hughes)

- Communications subcommittee (led by Helen Partington & Dan Hughes)

We are conscious the liturgy committee still relies heavily on a few dedicated parishioners (Maggy Hamilton, John Wilkinson, Josephine Ellis, Mary Hearn) and we hope that this can be resolved this year with more volunteers. It goes without saying that we are also very grateful to John Wilkinson and Josephine Ellis for their help in re-establishing rosters, setting new processes and organizing volunteers and training for the various ministries. We acknowledge that this takes a lot of time and effort. Thank you to all those involved.

We are also extremely grateful to our wonderful priest, Father John for his love of our community, his vision for our future and his inclusion of all, especially the children. We continue to pray for Father John's health and were reminded recently (with Fr John having a "turn" at mass) about the importance and need for lay leadership and having sufficient volunteers for a healthy parish for the future.

To this end, we are delighted to see Father John develop the first group of lay leaders, and we thank them for their gift to us - their time, energy and commitment to our future. We hope Father John may be able to enjoy more golf and holidays as our lay leaders progress.

Thank you, Fr John, for your guidance and support for the Parish Council and for the role the Council plays in the strategic direction of the St Ignatius parish community.

This year we were pleased to welcome Shona Cosgrove as Parish Administrator, a fabulous addition to our operations team, looking after both St Ignatius parish and Mother of Perpetual Help parish in Glendowie. The Parish Council extends its thanks to the hard-working operations team, Gina Matijasevich, Matt Prasad and Shona Cosgrove and all the mahi behind the scenes to keep our parish functioning.

Finally, Helen Partington and I would like to thank the Parish Council, Sione Pulotu, Pip Block, Peter Brown, Mary Hearn, Paul Lynex, Eugene Rush, Dan Hughes, Mary Baylis for their commitment and service to the Parish. We would also like to especially recognize those leaving the Parish Council this year namely, Mary Baylis in particular for her help with Liturgy, Peter Brown his experience and the engagement with the Diocese, Paul Lynex for his leadership of the Hospitality committee and Akata for support for the Music and Tongan Community. We look forward to welcoming new parish council members at this AGM.

Operations Manager – Matthew Prasad

Overview of the Year



The past year has been a period of significant activity and progress for our parish. In general, this past year can be summed up as having undertaken significant consolidation of systems, processes, and policies between the two parishes in the back office. With new processes and policies to be systemically rolled out and communicated to parishioners over the coming year.

Significant achievements

- Roll out of the Parishioner Database
- Roll out of new website
- New newsletter re-formatting for easier management
- A comprehensive property maintenance assessment and report undertaken
- Holding three Safeguarding training sessions and significantly increasing the number of volunteers that are police vetted

Challenges faced

- Roll out of the Parishioner database was less than ideal and we had significant teething challenges. We had parishioners not receiving newsletter emails or double ups. We also had parishioners register that did not appear in our system. All problems have now been resolved, however in hindsight the lack of a delivery plan contributed to the problems experienced.
- Karla (our previous office administrator shared with MPH) resigning and moving to Australia late last year, caused some disruption largely due to finding her suitable replacement. We now have Shona Cosgrove, who is a wonderful addition to our team and has helped return services back to normal.

Health and Safety

Ensuring the health and safety of our parish community is a top priority. We have made significant efforts to comply with regulations and improve safety measures within our facilities.

Compliance with health and safety requirements

We are compliant with all health and safety requirements for the Parish. We have had three safeguarding training sessions run by Lisa-May from the Diocese over the past year. They were run both in person and online. Attendance could have been better, and we are working on how this can be improved over the coming year.

We have in place an Event Risk Register. Every major event (like the Christmas hamper drive) must complete this risk register prior to the event. This did not occur previously or was ad-hoc. This is now Policy.

Administration and Staffing

The administrative functions and staffing of our parish are essential to our operations. This year saw several updates in our staffing and volunteer coordination efforts.

All staff are part-time and have schedules that suit their needs. As such coordination across the team can be challenging but is being improved with the technological improvements we are undertaking.

The Operations Manager and Parish Administrator hours are split across both St Ignatius and Mother of Perpetual Help Parishes equally. Combining processes and systems is helping to reduce unnecessary double ups and improve efficiencies and cost across both Parishes.

Rosters for St Ignatius are handled by volunteers (Josephine Ellis and John Wilkinson) with peripheral support from the parish administrator
Rosters@easternbayscatholic.org.nz

Staffing updates and changes

We have a new Parish administrator – Shona Cosgrove. Her time is split between Mother of Perpetual Help and St Ignatius. She is available always to assist both parishes irrespective of where she is located. Shona works from St Ignatius Parish on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Facility Management

This year, we focused on maintaining and improving our parish buildings and grounds. Various maintenance tasks and repairs were completed to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Major maintenance and repair projects

- Paving in front of and to the rear of the Church and Parish Centre was repaired
- New projectors and audio-visual system were installed in the Church
- Repairs to the fencing and front lawn area at 14 Kotiri St was undertaken

Future facility plans and needs

Numerous small works are required which will be undertaken as part of a working bee to be scheduled after the upcoming Quiz night to raise funds for this repair work. Replacement of the trestle tables and chairs in the Parish Centre is required and will be planned over the coming year.

Future Plans and Goals

Looking ahead, we have several exciting plans and goals aimed at furthering the growth and development of our parish, including:

Short-term goals

- Implement online Hall booking system via our new website
- Implement online Sacramental and Baptism registration system via our website
- Address the challenges of high demand for our Sacramental Programme as it continues to grow every year. We are nearing 60 children within each programme (refer to Sacramental Programme report). Approximately half the children are not from St Ignatius school and are from surrounding nearby schools. All children/families are parishioners. This is quickly becoming unsustainable for one person to manage and we require volunteers to help with this programme. Changes are likely over the next year.

Long-term goals

- Issue Baptism and Sacramental certificates via our new Parishioner Database
- Potentially improve the rostering system via an online system accessed via our website.

Acknowledgements & Conclusion

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, and parishioners for their unwavering support and dedication. Your contributions have been invaluable to our success.

Liturgy Committee – Mary Hearn



We are fortunate to have a small, but dedicated team on our Liturgy Committee and always welcome anyone who would like to join our monthly meetings. We plan and review our major celebrations (Christmas & Easter), and evaluate to see what improvements can be made. We also review Feast days with a goal to greater participation by the Parish, and we always welcome any feedback.

A very critical part of what the Liturgy committee fulfills, (John Wilkinson & Josephine Ellis), are the Rosters for all the various ministries. We currently we have approximately 93 ministers registered, (hospitality, counters, collectors, linen, etc.), not including children's ministry, Liturgy of the Word, and Communion.

We would also welcome any budding musicians out there to help raise our collective voices to God. Our sincere thanks to all the groups that currently provide us with such beautiful music. How lucky we are to have so many people who work to make St Ignatius such a caring community, but we can always do better, be better.

Our thanks to Fr John for his ongoing support and guidance.

Sacramental Programme – Gina Matijasevich

Highlights of the past year have been:

- Welcoming 17 new Catholics at Easter. Lots of joy and celebration
- Bishop Steve confirming 57 children at MOPH on Wednesday 22nd May in a spirit-filled ceremony. Bishop Steve was amazing in the way he engaged with the children and congregation.
- Parents presenting their children for Baptism at our weekend masses
- RCIC children learning about Jesus and preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion.
- Adults on the RCIA journey exploring their faith through reflecting on weekly readings and group discussion on Sunday mornings.
- Rite of Welcome – Welcoming & Signing of our Candidates & Catechumens on the RCIA/RCIC journey
- Training Parent Group Leaders (13) for our Sacramental programme who lead our children's sessions.
- Our Sacramental Programme, RCIA and RCIC continue to include families from St Ignatius & MOPH.

	RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults	RCIC Rite of Christian Initiation for Children	Sacramental Programme	Baptism Course
2020	4	10	38	27
2021	4	5	No Programme	18
2022	10	20	45	25
2023	10	18	38	8
2024	3	14	57	24
2025**	11	13	38	TBC

** Still receiving Enrolments

Thank you to our amazing leaders....

Thank you to Logan & Jennifer Swann, Greg & Ange, Carl & Manuela Doherty who are leading our Baptism courses. Thank you for all your time and energy. Thank you to Pip Block & Anthony Matijasevich for leading our adults in the RCIA on Sunday mornings. Welcome to Katy Scoullar who is joining the RCIA team. Thank you to Akata and our Tongan Choir for singing for our 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

More helpers/leaders please...

We are reliant on a few people to keep our programmes running. If you are keen to be apart of our team, we would love you to join us. As they say “many hands make light work”.

We need 2 more adults to share the leading of our RCIC (children) sessions on a Sunday morning. 2-3 sessions per year.

Adult Discussion Sessions

We have received lots of requests for our adult discussion sessions to start up again on a monthly basis. We need 2-3 adults to share the leading of these sessions.

Justice & Peace – Dan Hughes



This past year we have been looking at how we can embed Justice and Peace objectives into the overall focus of our various groups.

As a parish we are initiating a relationship with the Everybody Eats Restaurant in Glen Innes and in time will also embed initiatives with the sister organisation Tamaki Urban Market Garden. The appeal of these charities is that their goals align with Justice and Peace Principles of the parish, in supporting those in need and caring for the environment. They also provide an opportunity for the parish to donate their time, their cash (or simply their custom). This allows the full demographic of the parish to support one outcome which can help bring our community together.

As a parish we have shown time and again how motivated, generous, and caring we can be. We also see these activities as great way of bringing the parish together creating a great community.

There are various initiatives that we have supported over the years such as furniture donations, Christmas Hampers, support of Glen Brae School etc. We are running a review of current and past activities to ensure we provide adequate support as required. Some momentum and relationships fell away over Covid, and it has taken time to regain that ground.

Additionally, we will look to strengthen interlock with Schools in particular St Ignatius as well as aligning with the Diocese at large.

We are all keen to activate the parish in this area and remain very open to ideas and input of any kind.

Hospitality – Paul Lynex



Matthew wrote (25:35) “For I was a stranger and you welcomed me”

Having an active gathering of parishioners outside of the celebration of Mass makes a real difference in engaging us all in activities of fellowship and community, demonstrating how even in relaxed settings we can find reminders of God and the Catholic faith. Our new website puts it beautifully as being “We believe in the power of community and the

strength of togetherness. Our parishes are not just a place of worship; it's a family, where everyone is valued and embraced.”

Our principal current activities are the morning tea that is held each Sunday morning and the Wine & Cheese gathering held on the first Saturday of the month and both are extremely well attended. In both events the gatherings will see parishioners remaining and sharing that special sense of community for up to an hour after Mass has finished. These two are especially valuable in welcoming to our community both visitors and the new members of the parish.

None of this could be successful without the magnificent support we receive from volunteers, and I have to say a humble ‘thank you’ to them all. Of course, we are always looking for more support to spread the load (as easy as it is) with full training, support and supplies provided so look out for the regular surveys. Even coming forward once a year lends your support and is very rewarding in building your own connections to new faces.

Looking ahead we are at the early stage of planning for the return of our Quiz Night (we definitely need additional hands for that) and, when weather improves, the Sunday morning sausage sizzle.

Tongan Community – Sione Pulotu



- We have 14 families
- We take part at the Parish Mass on every 2nd Sunday of the month
- Our ECL (Sunday School) is running after Mass every Sunday
- We have our own Tongan Mass in every 5th Sunday of the month @3pm
- We have our choir practice every Tuesday night
- Every year we visit to the elderly and sickness of our community and also the neighbouring communities
- Every year in November - the month of the “Holy Souls”, we visit the cemetery of our fallen priests and nuns.
- We visit some priests on Father’s Day including Bishop Emeritus Pat Dunn & Bishop Denis Browne and some of the nuns on Mother’s Day, especially those are in their retirement homes
- Every year we participate in the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Ethnic Chaplaincies Rise Up & Shine Festival.

- every year in December we have a program for our Sunday School children at Advent season
- we assist with wrapping and delivery of the parish food hamper

Malo and wish you all a fruitful and happy AGM.

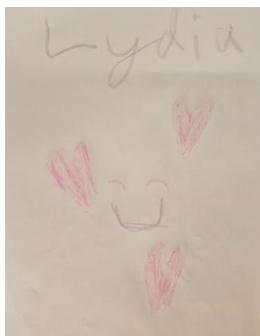


Photos from top left clockwise

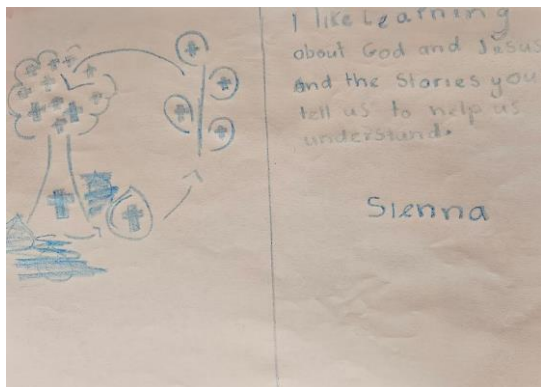
- Parish Food Hamper drive
- Visiting Bishop Emeritus Pat Dunn
- Visiting Bishop Denis Browne
- Visiting St Patrick cemetery in Panmure for the deceased priests and nuns including Fr Mullins
- Visiting the home of the Marist Sisters at Papatoetoe

Children's Liturgy – Eugene Rush

St Ignatius continues to be loving parish that welcomes families and children (of all ages). We have six caring leadership pairs that take turns leading the Children's Liturgy. Around 30 to 40 children aged four to ten regularly attend the children's liturgy. It's great to watch the children interact with the leaders and each other as they engage in the word of the Lord.

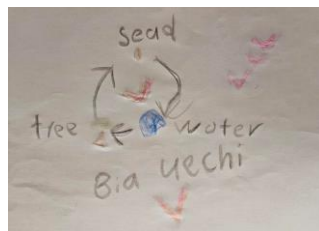


I like to
bring up
the gifts



I like Learning
about God and Jesus
and the Stories you
tell us to help us
understand.

Sienna



Bia uechi



(God)
Jess
e
seer gent
seer kind



Felicia

The thing I like about
church is bringing up the
gifts.
Georgia



I learnt
lots of readings



ST IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Ignatius Catholic School: Report for St Ignatius Parish AGM June 2024

My apologies for not being able to attend the Parish AGM this year. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the parish community and particularly to Father John for all his pastoral care and ongoing support of the school.

Catholic Special Character

At St Ignatius Catholic School the Catholic faith and Special Character is the foundation for all we do. Currently the roll of the school is 202 with the vast majority of students being preference 5.1 as they have been baptised.

We are supported by a strong School Board and an active Friends and Family group. The board comprises of 5 elected parent representatives, 4 appointed proprietors representatives (2 from each of the parishes), the principal and an elected staff representative.

Over the past year we have been able to celebrate regularly as a whole school community, including the whole school masses and major events such as

- ❖ Lent
- ❖ Easter
- ❖ Ascension
- ❖ Pentecost
- ❖ All Saints Day

Our children enjoy these learning experiences and the opportunities provided to deepen their relationship with God.

Please see our Annual Goal 1 of our Annual Implementation Plan actions.

Annual Goal 1.1 Build Strong Connections with our parishes and communities (NELP 2)	
Actions	Ideal Outcome - What we expect to see by the end of the year
Provide opportunities for staff and students to connect with other Josephite schools and the Sisters of St Joseph. At least 3 teachers to attend the Josephite Colloquium in June.	Increased awareness of our Josephite charism and how this inspires our school values.
- Continue to plan and contribute to combined school and parish masses at least three times a year.	The school has close ties with the parish and some parishioners become actively involved in the school. Families grow their connection with their parish.
Provide a termly overview of learning - Share Religious Education learning with whānau by sending God Loves Me books home once a term and for whānau to reflect on this learning with their children.	Whānau will be actively involved in their children's learning. Students will take agency and pride in their learning.
Annual Goal 1.2 Provide opportunities to nurture faith development (NELP 6)	
Actions	Ideal Outcome - What we expect to see by the end of the year
Continued PLD on the new RE curriculum Tō Tātou Whakapono - Our Faith: - Y1 & 2 teachers to fully implement Phases of Learning 1 this year. - Y 3 & 4 teachers to attend PLD on Phases of Learning 1-2 this year	Teachers are confident in their understanding of, and ability to implement the new RE Curriculum. Students engage with the curriculum content and understanding is measured against achievement objectives
Plan and Implement purposeful PLD on prayer.	A wider range of planned meaningful prayers are implemented throughout the school.
Mini-retreats are planned and held for students and staff.	Feedback that the retreats have helped staff and students deepen their faith.

RE Professional development and learning

We have now rolled out the new RE Curriculum for Years 0-2 and currently Years 3-4 teachers are taking part in Professional learning in this area.

Social Justice in Action

The Junior Joeys, a group of year 6 student leaders, continue to help promote the Josephite charism of the school by working with younger children in a caring capacity.

The school continues to support Caritas in their annual lenten appeal and through Mufti Days. We also work closely with Te Waipuna Puawai in Glen Innes and our families give generously by donating food, clothing and other household items for the sisters to distribute. We are also looking forward to helping the parish with new initiatives that may make use of plants from the school grounds.

Jane Penney - Principal