

St. Mary's Parish, Papakura

Creating a Vision for our Parish

The Senior Leadership Team is in the process of finalising a Vision for our parish. You are kindly requested to prayerfully read the contributions made by the Senior Leadership Team and some parishioners. Your natural gift to write a vision statement for the parish in about 40 words from the text below will go a long way! Your vision statement should reach the parish office by Friday, 1 November 2024.

Individual Vision statements from the SDL Team

1. My vision is an outreach driven evangelization of our own Parish and our town of Papakura. This would be achieved using tools such as Alpha, Bold Witness and Music I believe strongly we must be faithful to Catholic Catechism and Divine Truths based on Scriptures from the Holy Bible. And that spending time inviting the holy Spirit to come amongst us and guide us, as was it was with the Disciples is crucial to our success. We are Disciples after all. I also believe strongly that the Roman Empire collapsed into the Catholic Church, not the other way around and we must pray that our Church leaders have a firm understanding of this.

We must love one another and be tolerant and respectful of others views, but ultimately Divine Truths based in Holy Scripture, must have the last say. God is the giver of all that is good and Beautiful Alleluia Amen.
2. St Mary's Parish Papakura: "A joyous parish where you find a place to encounter Jesus".

The past, present and future – Acknowledging that the church was a place of refuge for those in need, the present is that the church is a place where we feel belong taking into account the changing nature of our demographics due to people migrating into the Papakura areas and will also be in the future. We are hoping to activate all the parishioner and visitors to our church in giving their time and talents for the Lord.
3. I seek the life of St Mary's Parish in the heart of Papakura to be a place where the Holy Spirit dwells and dynamically engages with all people. A place which is centred on God making the traditions of the church available through shared experiences and shared responsibility. A Church that represents a community of people who are out reaching to one another responding to the needs of others through active practical assistance supported by a solid prayer foundation. A Church that adheres to a horizontal model of leadership with a sense of equality, equity and value of all members while outreaching to visitors and the wider community. A Church that is alive and responds to Christ's message of hope, forgiveness, kindness and repentance with flexibility and understanding.
4. "A Parish that is welcoming to all and for all to see Christ in each other"
5. "To know and love Jesus Christ, and to make Him known and loved."

1. *"To be a welcoming, vibrant community where all are valued and actively engaged in the mission to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ."*
6. A welcoming, vibrant community where our sacramental journey will be celebrated, our faith nurtured and strengthened to take up the challenge of discipleship within and beyond our parish.
7. "St. Mary's Catholic Parish, Papakura, envisions a vibrant and joyous community responding to the Call to holiness of life and missionary outreach; fostering solidarity, justice and peace; caring for our Common Home, and actively building the Kingdom of God through love and service."
8. St. MARY Papakura is called to be disciples of Christ through the Holy Spirit and the with Mother Mary's help. Everyone is invited to God's house through intimate spiritual connection with God!
9. I like the idea of building and working with different Missionary Teams at the moment to get them up and running. Things that may be bothering me? The lack of communication and how organized is the Parish office at the moment with things to do with other teams and the Parishioners? Future vision: I wish for a well-established, well-communicative, and well-organized Parish with a strong spiritual faith in our new church!!!!
10. I need to be honest with you. I'm not sure about the church vision. I'm a kind of confused. But with my understanding I think my vision will be keeping community close to church. To do that we need to encourage people to come to church. When people entered the church (both doors) greet them with a smile will be good. Core values, honesty, integrity ect:
11. A welcoming, listening, and missionary Christian community called by the Father in Jesus Christ, living the fullness of life, witnessing to the kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit with Mary as guide.

12. From a parishioner in response to the newsletter:

Thank you for opening up the conversation with the people/parish to think about and action the Dreams hopes and vision for our parish.

My vision is for a parish that is welcoming and warm and where all our young people can avail of leadership positions, for their own growth and the growth of our parish.

It is good to see young men and women reading, etc.

I looked after the ---- for a while and left to give another person the opportunity to grow and bring a fresh perspective to the role.

Thought needs to be given to rotate roles so that the default is not forever and people can try different hats to see what suits them best.

The parish also needs to be a bit more organised with the Volunteers and information to keep people updated with their roles, training and any updates. As an example, I would hope the people that have put their hands up for the advertized volunteer positions and the dates published in the newsletter will also be emailed the week before/ the day before.

I volunteer with ----- and the ----- organisation in Manurewa. The warmth and the welcoming atmosphere drew me there, as well as my interest in those areas.

I wish the Parish the best with these drives and pray for a strong parish for our young people.

13. Parish Vision Statement from the conversation with parishioners gathered by a member:

My vision is for a parish that is welcoming and warm and where all our young people can avail of leadership positions, for their own growth and the growth of our parish.

It is good to see young men and women reading, etc.

I looked after the Altar servers for a while and left to give another person the opportunity to grow and bring a fresh perspective to the role.

Thought needs to be given to rotate roles so that the default is not forever and people can try different hats to see what suits them best.

The parish also needs to be a bit more organised with the Volunteers and information to keep people updated with their roles, training and any updates. As an example, I would hope the people that have put their hands up for the advertized volunteer positions and the dates published in the newsletter will also be emailed the week before/ the day before.

Participant 1, female (Home visit)

Age: Over 70, been with the Parish for over 50 years. We started with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Vision statement:

Now: I'm thrilled that the Novena has been introduced to the Parish. It's like a burden off the shoulder, and lights have appeared!. Happy with everything else in the Parish.

Things that may be bothering you: School mass, kids making noises, e.g., tapping feet on the floor, and no monitoring of kids. Would like to hear feedback straight away about the Church building plan from the Diocese.

Future vision: For the building plan to be confirmed by the Diocese.

Participant 2: female (Home visit) we started with a prayer to the Holy Spirit

Age: Over 60, been with the Parish for 15 years.

Now: Enjoy listening to the choir, and happy to see the same friendly people smiling and making small talk at different masses.

Things that may be bothering you: The Building plan is on hold and not much news. It would be great to update finance monthly and anything to do about the building plans to put in the newsletter.

Future vision: To see unity and togetherness between Fr and Parishioners, and to see parishioners develop a meaningful and spiritual faith.

Participant 3: male (After church chat)

Age: Over 70, been with the Parish for over 35 years.

Now: Enjoy the Rosaries, and the Novena week. Enjoy the after-mass cuppa and chat with other Parishioners. Feel, happy when other parishioners make an effort to say hello.

Things that may be bothering you: When the microphone does not work and cannot hear Fr. Or the readers. What happens to the Building plan? Where is it going from our last meeting? How are we/parishioners going to make money to help with the building?

Future vision: To see a well-organized Parish. If everything is organized then everything else will fall into place well.

Participant 4: Male (After church chat)

Age: Over 70, been with the Parish for 40 years.

Now: See a lot of changes. Every priest has different ways and expectations. Some are good and some are a little hard to take but that is part of the changes.

Things that may be bothering you: As a parishioner, would like to know or be introduced to the people working in the office and what their roles are? Maybe their names and roles can be in the newsletter. The people who volunteer at the Parish and what missionaries they joined to be introduced in the newsletter. Would like to see all priests open to parishioners and not biased or have favorites. Parishioners should always pray for the priests and their work, because they are human beings and need our prayers.

Future vision: To see a happy Parish with strong spiritual awareness and faith.

Participant 5: Male (after church chat)

Age: 58, been with the Parish for 36 years.

Now: Alright, changes are made with different priests. Not sure where I see with the Parish right now? The homily is short and spot on hopefully it will remain the same. The choir is good but I noticed they are different when it is 8.30 am mass and the 5.30 mass the choir is not as strong as the 10.30 am mass.

Things that may be bothering you? Not many people at the choir on the other two masses, compared to the 10.30 am mass. The keys to the toilets must be available for the parishioners at all times when there are masses, meetings, or anything to do with the church. Toilets must be shown or made known to all or signs must be put up to be visible.

Future vision: To see a strong St Mary's Papakura Parish supporting the Building funds!
