

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

## 

**Fit For Mission**

**Takatū Ki Te Mau I Te Rongo Pai**

*Are we ready to be Christians full time, showing our*

*commitment by word and deed?*

*Pope Francis*

*Pastoral Plan*

*2014-2019*

WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

A pastoral plan is only as good as its implementation. If it’s meaning is not explored, if it is not made part of the considerations of parish, school, ethnic communities and individual life it is just a pretty document prepared by the bishop.

Who should read the Pastoral Plan?

Everybody! No matter their role in the community has a part to play as an individual and as a member of parish, community, school and diocesan groups.

How to read the Fit for Mission

As an individual, with others always asking what does this mean for me? For us?

And remember we can only change our own behaviour not those of others so it’s not about telling other people what they are going to do for Mission. This is not to suggest that we do not invite others to be with us, but we do what we can do.

How to implement Fit for Mission

The following suggestions will help individuals and groups read the Pastoral Plan statement *Fit for Mission* and explore ways that they can

**Go out! Go out and share your testimony. Go out and interact with your brothers and sisters.**

**Go out and share, Go out and ask.**

**Become the Word in body as well as spirit*.***

**S**trengths – what of this particular priority for mission do we do well now?

**SWOT**

**W**eaknesses – where are the gaps in our implementation of this priority, things perhaps

we do but not well?

**O**pportunities – what other new things can we do that will enable us as individuals

and a group to contribute to the Mission of God

**T**argets – what will it look like if we make these changes? When are we going to do it?

A SWOT can be done in many and varied ways.

* You could do it for the whole plan or just a particular one of the priorities.
* individuals can do it and then share,
* small groups can do it and then feedback to the larger group,
* a large brainstorm could be held
* Look at things that groups (large or small) can do but also things that individuals can do.
* Remember that this is about being on Mission AND preparing for Mission

The questions provided are a guide, not a test. Go where the spirit leads. Think of the other questions that might be helpful for your particular situation.

Have fun –enjoy the process it is about life!

The SWOT sheet can be found in two forms – one with detailed questions and the other blank spaces for responses. These could be expanded to A3 size if required.

A further set of questions is also supplied. They might be used with the SWOT or with the PowerPoint presentation on Fit for Mission, or in other ways that you would find useful.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **S**trengths – what of this particular priority for mission do we do well now?  **Priority**: all, reaching out, pastoral areas, leadership, communication  Circle the priority/ies under consideration | **W**eaknesses – where are the gaps in our implementation of this priority, things perhaps we do but not well? |
| **O**pportunities – what other new things can we do that will enable us as individuals and a group to contribute to the Mission of God? | **T**argets – what will it look like if we make these changes?  **SWOT**  When are we going to do it? |

## 

**SWOT**

**Priority**: all, reaching out, pastoral areas, leadership, communication

Circle the priority/ies under consideration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **S**trengths – what of this particular priority for mission do we do well now?   * What makes this successful Mission? * Who are we reaching? * What are we proud of? | **W**eaknesses – where are the gaps in our implementation of this priority, things perhaps we do but not well?   * How can others be involved? * How do we make the great greater? * What frustrates people? |
| **O**pportunities – what other new things can we do that will enable us as individuals and a group to contribute to the Mission of God   * Who is missing out? * What have we got to share? * How can we do things better? | **T**argets – what will it look like if we make these changes?  When are we going to do it?   * What will we do now?   + This month?   + This year? * How will we evaluate and learn for the future from what we do now? |

**Questions to consider**

For use with SWOT or by themselves, use as many as needed.



Note that in this context a community is any part of the Church; a parish, pastoral area, school, ethnic chaplaincy, agency of the diocese, group such as Catholic Women’s League, Youth group. Anyone called to be ‘Fit for Mission’

* What is the place of prayer in our community?
  + Exposure of people to different forms e.g meditation, lexio divino
  + Times of prayer built into structures and meetings
  + Confidence of people to pray creatively
  + Use of different languages and traditions of prayer
* What is the message of Jesus we are trying to share?
  + Actions that show we believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
  + Showing hope to a hopeless world
  + Being happy in our expressions of Christian life
  + Approaching sharing the message in new, creative and modern ways
* How are we a community of welcome?
  + Invitations to join
  + Acknowledging and celebrating diversity
  + Being non-judgmental of difference
  + Creating opportunities to participate without fear
* Who else is on about what we are on about that we can connect with and collaborate with?
  + Local, diocesan and national organisations Church based and other
  + The passions of people in the community that can be encouraged and tapped into
* How do we engage with the parents of Catholic school children who are not involved with parish life?
  + Opportunities for involvement
  + Challenge without judgement
  + Sharing resources and facilities
* What steps can we take to become co-responsible and collaborative?
  + Acknowledging and sharing the gifts of all
  + Enabling people to take responsibility
  + Accepting learning through mistakes

**Questions to consider**

For use with SWOT or by themselves, use as many as needed.



* What are the needs of local people?
  + Spiritual nourishment opportunities
  + Emotional support
  + Practical solutions to need
  + Varied methods of determining need
* How do we share our resources?
  + Using the talents of people
  + Opening physical resources out to broader groups
  + Financial support of overseas missionary work
* What are the other questions we need to ask of ourselves?
  + Inviting maximum participation
  + Inclusion of those on the margins
  + Exploring things that haven’t been tried before

Another approach to questions that will help plan the implementation of the Pastoral Plan is to brainstorm how the community would be if a particular priority was fully implemented through asking such questions as:

* What we see that was different?
* How would we feel different?
* What would we hear that was different?
* What would we do differently or more  
   deliberately?
* Why would this/these things make a  
   difference?