



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?

Aug/Sept 2015 Newsletter

www.cdafitformission.weebly.com

Pope Francis

Fit For Mission Update

Catholic Caring Foundation ‘Caring Awards’

Bishop Patrick Dunn, as Patron of the Catholic Caring Foundation, celebrated the Caring Mass on July 22nd to a packed St Patrick’s Cathedral. The 12.15pm Mass included students from Auckland’s Catholic primary and secondary schools, and grant recipients of the Foundation, who had been nominated for a caring award by their communities. Bishop Pat blessed the nominees for their outstanding care and commitment to caring for others in their community.

Darragh O’Riordan, General Manager of the Foundation said, “The Caring Mass for the Foundation was a wonderful demonstration of ‘Fit for Mission’, as community representatives from all faiths and backgrounds joined our Catholic community of givers to work towards our mandate of caring for those most vulnerable in our community.”

The Catholic Caring Foundation has been supporting communities in need with grants for emergency housing, domestic violence prevention, elder support, growth programmes for youth, foodbanks, new settler support services and families in crisis for over 25 years.



Caring Mass at the Cathedral with the schools’ reps and Caring award recipients around the altar.

Watch out for Phase three – working together across parishes into pastoral areas and regions, with schools and migrant communities. Read the Western story in the next issue!

Forum Updates

At the 6 Bishop's forums held in July, Pat Lythe gave those present an update on the progress of Fit for Mission throughout the diocese. Phase One was about educating inspiring, encouraging all parishioners to be missionaries

- To reach out to all, not just fellow parishioners, in service In hospitality, In assistance

It was about affirming all those who already quietly do this: e.g. (in Catholic groups): Catholic Women's League, St Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Vinnies,...

And those who work In wider society as volunteers: Advice Bureau members, Tenancy Protection, Adult Literacy, St John's, prison visiting.....

PHASE TWO IS WHERE PARISHES AND COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE MOMENT:

Deciding upon, and implementing a parish outreach project which is:

- *Achievable and sustainable*
- *Involves many parishioners*
- *Involves personal contact with people in the community*
- ***Fit for Mission is about parishes serving people whom we do not know, especially the poor, and not expecting anything back.***
- *It is about sharing our resources*
- *It is about establishing real relationships (Not just giving anonymous handouts of food, clothing, furniture)*

Some examples from around the diocese:

St Mary's, Papakura Catholic parish joins with the Anglicans and Methodists in the suburb to provide one free meal a week for those on limited budgets. Almost 80 people all together from these three churches are rostered to help with cooking, hospitality, setting up and talking to those who come.

The Cathedral community is planning to reach out to women living in isolation in the inner city to offer them a support group using Cathedral premises.

Grey Lynn parish, St Joseph's, decided to assist the homeless or "streeties". So they handed out official invitations 3 weeks before the event, then followed up with reminders and offers of transport to a special sit down dinner. On the day in the morning, a number of the youth and vocations teams went out to remind the street people. In the evening, they picked them up and after the celebration, they dropped them back to their streets. The dinner went very

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well. It started with a 20 minute prayer session, there was entertainment afterwards, a band played, they ate well, the youth presented their testimonies and then the guests were invited to present the stories of their lives which they did. They felt affirmed. The parish is now working out how they can relate in an ongoing way to the homeless, realising that they need training.

St Dominic's parish, Blockhouse Bay, decided it was the men who needed support so they are about to launch a men's collective with a breakfast and meeting.

The **Takapuna parish** decided to assist at De Paul house in Northcote and several working bees have been held by some men of the parish to spruce up the building.

Pt Chev parish has decided to use the presbytery garden as a model to teach those in the area about gardening, especially vegetable gardening, and hope to move on to encourage the sharing of produce from the initiative.

Several parishes, (**Three Kings, Owairaka** among them) are visiting rest homes on a regular basis, establishing relationships with the residents, who are often lonely.

ALPHA courses

Many people feel unable to communicate their faith to others. St Joseph and Joachim parish in **Otahuhu** ran an Alpha course (from May to July) to help its members get confidence in this area. Their youth are planning on running a youth Alpha for the same reason while **Helensville** parish is combining with other churches in the area to put on an Alpha course for those who do not know about Jesus Christ but also for those who need a "brush-up" in how to talk about their beliefs.

Rosmini College



OVER the BACK FENCE PROJECT

- is a collaborative, service-learning project.
- involves Year 12 and Year 13 students. • older students teach younger students.
- over one hundred and sixty (160) year 12 and 13 students are currently teaching lessons
 - Physically ----- over our back fence at St Joseph's School, Takapuna,
 - Digitally ----- to one of many classrooms from Stewart Island to North Cape, Otago, Westland, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, South and East Auckland, Northland, and in Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Canada, USA or the Cook Islands.
- where Rosmini students prepare and deliver a weekly Health lessons to classrooms by Skype.
- in the 2nd year in a project with students in the remote Northern Cook Island group
- over 60 classrooms in ten countries have or are connected to Over the Back Fence.

This is a Fit For Mission outreach!

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Pope Francis issued his encyclical "*Laudato Si'*" – 'On Care for Our Common Home', in July 2015. He began the encyclical quoting the Canticle of St Francis and called on us to take a holistic view of the contemporary world where human beings are integrally related with the whole of nature. So part of being **Fit For Mission** is to have regard for the creation around us, and treat it as you would treat one another. He also says that a decline in the quality of human life and a decline in the quality of the natural world around us go together.

This prayer is offered as you reflect on how regard for the environment can fit into your individual and parish or community mission activities.

Canticle of St Francis

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day
and through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.



**Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.**

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the wind and air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.



**Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste**

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.

**Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.**

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Death,
From whose embrace no mortal can escape.

**Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.**



AMEN