



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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ABOVE: CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, HAMILTON
COVER: MARCH FOR LIFE WAIKATO 2021
BACK COVER: TABERNACLE IN ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TAUPŌ

GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE

GREG SCHMIDT

Thank you to all those that have contributed to the Diocese, Parishes and Catholic Church in so many wonderful ways, including the volunteers, parishioners, priests, religious and staff. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge Bishop Steve who has departed for his next role as the RC Bishop of the Auckland Diocese; his seven years of leadership, vision and generosity has blessed the Diocese of Hamilton immensely.

Financial results for 2021

Like most organisations, the Diocese encountered a second year of COVID-19 related disruptions and had to continually plan and adapt to the changing circumstances. It is a great credit to the individuals involved at household, parish, diocesan, and national levels that the Church was able to continue to provide religious, pastoral and support services.

Careful stewardship of resources was required and allowed the Diocese to provide additional support to our community in the form of online Masses and introducing online booking and support systems to meet government changes in the numbers permitted to gather; as well as providing online resources and additional hardship support to catholic school students and their families.

Highlights for the year included the launching of the five year Pastoral Strategic Plan, the National Evangelisation Team (NET) Youth team, the opening of the new Suzanne Aubert primary school in Papamoa, the global Synod input; and the additional support that was introduced for Parish Property and through the Bishop's Secretariat Office.

Without the generous support of donors much of the good work of the Church would not be able to be carried out, and I would like to make special mention of the supporters of the annual Bishop's and Seminary Appeals, the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) investors, the Bernadette Charitable Trust; and the Tindall Foundation for their long standing support of the Common Good (previously Catholic Care) Foundation.

Our investments in the CDF performed better than anticipated in 2021 thanks to strong recovery in the latter part of the year.

Assets and Liabilities

The balance sheet of the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton clearly illustrates that the vast majority of the assets are in Property, comprising almost 80% of our assets. This property is held for pastoral & religious ministries, churches, schools and community facilities. Many generations have built up these assets and one of our challenges is to maintain the guardianship and improve these assets for the service of mission.

Similarly the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) investments and cash equivalents (15% of the assets) are required to be prudently managed and that strict financial ratio and reporting requirements are met in accordance with our Trust Deed and statutory obligations.

The liabilities in the balance sheet are relatively low compared with the value of the assets and consist of CDF Depositor Funds (56%) and Loans for school purposes (37%).

The charts provided here give a quick snapshot of our financial performance for the core ministry and operating elements of the Diocese. The full consolidated and audited report of the Diocese will be published with the Charities Services later in the year.

PASTORAL SERVICES

ALEX BAILEY

2021 saw the introduction of limited capacity Masses, Mass bookings, and the use of vaccine passes. Priests and parishes worked tirelessly to provide for all their people. Thank you to all the priests, parish volunteers, and staff that enabled the faithful to participate in Mass over that difficult period. The pain and hurt of division caused by limited capacities and vaccine passes was, and perhaps is still, a reality in the church. Interestingly, Pentecost 2021 marked the launch of Bishop Steve's Strategic Pastoral Plan. The plan's vision emphasises unity in Jesus Christ: 'Together, on the journey, living no longer for ourselves but for Christ'. Thank you to those involved in the November 2020 strategic workshop led by Robyn McCulloch that provided the groundwork for the plan.

I would like to thank the members of the Pastoral Services Team and our committed volunteers who made the 2021 events and initiatives possible, some of which are detailed in the following pages. In July we farewelled Hayden Graham who resigned from the Diocesan Resource Designer role. Hayden accomplished many things in his time working for the Pastoral Services Team including the Mass video series, updating the layout and design of Kete Kōrero, and the video resource on baptism, to name just a few. In August we welcomed Taila Burton-Gollop as the new Diocesan Resource Designer. As part of her role Taila is constantly producing fantastic visual and video content which is viewable on the diocesan social media accounts. Despite the apparent difficulties, Brigid Conroy, Diocesan Media and Events coordinator, facilitated a number of events both online and in person. Robert Garan, Parish Liaison, worked to support a number of different parishes and catechists throughout the year. Jil Miller, Youth Office Manager, provided online and in person opportunities for youth and young adults to encounter Christ. Finally, thanks to Bishop Steve for his guidance over past years. In his time as Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton he unceasingly emphasised the importance of the spiritual life. The Pastoral Team will continue to promote spiritual direction, silent retreats, and growth in the spiritual life.

FEATURES

New Baptism Resource

In 2021, we released *Baptised into the Family of God*, an 8-part formation series on baptism, featuring our local people. This series is aimed at assisting clergy and catechists in parishes with preparing parents to have their child baptised.



Marriage Preparation

Our new marriage course, *Prepare-Enrich*, has been in use in the diocese since Feb 2020. This course has moved from being a group course, to one-to-one with a facilitator couple or individual that is a companion to the couple journeying towards marriage. Due to the pandemic, numbers were low. It was great to continue building our ministry group of marriage educators, and hope to continue training new couples in 2022.

"I am so glad I did this course before we got engaged. It gave me a lot of confidence to see what the important

things in marriage are and what are some of the real issues that we might face as a couple and how to deal with them. I also found out about a lot of positive things about our relationship which I wouldn't have without the course." - Participant, 2021.

- Couples prepared - 29 in 2021 (42 in 2020)
- Facilitators trained - 7 in 2021
- Facilitators total - 18
- Natural Fertility Awareness - 1 couple trained in the Billings Method

Synod 2021-2023

Pope Francis is calling the whole Church to participate in a synod on synodality. In November 2021, 22 groups, approximately 150 people, gathered in person and online, despite the challenges of pandemic restrictions. The diocesan phase of the synod continues in early 2022 in parishes and homes.



Retreats

Three silent retreats were organised by the Pastoral Team, held at Tyburn Monastery in Ngakuru. 27 people participated. Unfortunately, numbers of retreats able to be held were limited due to the pandemic. Despite this, 2 out of 3 retreats held were fully booked.

"The retreat was just what I needed to give my prayer life a rev-up! The opportunity for spiritual direction was incredibly helpful for me to dig deeper into what the Lord is saying through prayer and my life. This is a fabulous opportunity that I will definitely recommend to others in my parish." - Retreat participant, 2021.



VIEW FROM TYBURN MONASTERY, NGAKURU

Safeguarding

Workshop 1, for parish volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults continued through 2021, primarily for volunteers new to their roles, but also as a catch up for those who had been unable to attend earlier sessions. 36 people attended these, some of which were held via zoom.

Workshop 2, for those in leadership roles commenced in 2021. Regional workshops were held around the diocese with 45 people attending.

Website & Social Media: Facebook & Instagram Stats

YouTube:
3.21K subscribers / 147K unique views
Instagram:
Followers: 543 / Reach: 7.6K
Facebook:
Likes: 2.9K / Followers: 3.8K / Reach: 62.4K

COVID-19 Livestream Mass & Pandemic resources

Throughout the last two years of pandemic, the diocese has endeavoured to help keep the faithful connected to the Church. Last year, livestream Mass continued during the differing lockdowns and level changes. Online resources were created and promoted to help the faithful to pray in their homes.

March for Life

“Over 500 people gathered on March 14 in a joyful gathering to celebrate life, to remember the thousands of lives lost to abortion each year in Aotearoa and raise public awareness.”



Spiritual Direction

Fr Richard Shortall SJ and Fr Carl Telford SM regularly provided Spiritual Direction for priests, deacons, and laity throughout the Diocese. Among other works Fr Shortall offered a directed retreat at the Cluny Retreat Centre, a directed retreat for teachers, and a retreat in everyday life for the parishes of the Holy Family. Fr Telford facilitated a number of private directed retreats on request at the Tyburn Monastery in Ngakuru.

Kete Kōrero

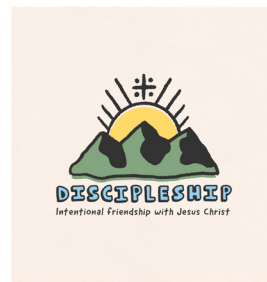
“I was so pleased to see that the size is back to a smaller booklet which is easier to read and handle. Thank you for this. This issue is presented so nicely.”

The Kete Kōrero took on a new look in mid-2020. 4 issues were produced in the new format, with the November-January edition published online due to lockdowns and restrictions as we headed into the end of the year. A special schools’ edition was created and released in time for Catholic Schools Day.

Reach/Stats - 5,500 copies, 4.2k online reach, 41 churches, 36 schools, 11 Catholic Services, every diocese in NZ.

Kete Kōrero was successful at the ARPA and ACPA Awards in 2021. “At the 2021 Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) Awards, Kete Kōrero was awarded a Bronze award in the Best Regional Publication category”. It was great to see our artists, photographers and article contributors also recognised.

The team has received some helpful feedback on readability and types of articles, which have been taken into consideration with each new edition.



Kete Kōrero FOLLOWING CHRIST
A MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HAWKINS BAY APR 2021



Kete Kōrero WAIURUA TAPU
A MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HAWKINS BAY MAY - JUL 2021



Kete Kōrero WHAKAHOAHOA
A MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HAWKINS BAY AUG - OCT 2021



Kete Kōrero MERI KIRIHIMETE
A MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HAWKINS BAY NOV 2021 - JAN 2022

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

JIL MILLER

“The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” The aforementioned quote is from the Easter Vigil liturgy and also seems to offer a lens through which I have reflected on 2021 in the Youth Office. While the pandemic continued to present challenges and had lasting impacts on our ministries, it presented us with opportunities to go “back to the basics.” This meant investing in individual relationships, pushing past the numbers game, and doing the mahi of making disciples. Set Free was smaller, but the Holy Spirit worked powerfully in the hearts of our young people. Heaven Come was an incredible opportunity for our young adults to be convicted and go out into their communities refreshed and ready for mission.

Last year we welcomed on board a new Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries, Danielle Mourits, who has a passion for serving the poor. Her desire to love the marginalised

with the Heart of Christ, lit a fire in the hearts of our young people and mobilised our community to host our first (of many) Community Dinners. Last May we welcomed almost 80 friends doing it tough and living on the streets to a day where they could find respite, take showers, have their hair cut, connect with community over a hot drink, play games and do art, pickup much needed necessities to make the winter easier, and lastly to be served a three course banquet meal, and enjoy music from local artists. How do we know we’ve succeeded? When we walk down the streets and hear our name called out, we can stop and have a chat with our friend. When our new friend joins us for Christmas lunch. When we go to a community lunch and we are still told how incredible the night was and a break from the routine of their days. And most importantly, when our hearts become more like Jesus’ and the fruit is that our community begins to recognise a shift in how we see and engage our marginalised brothers and sisters.



**HAMILTON
2021 TEAM**

**YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED AN
ENCOUNTER DAY: 1,321**

**YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH TAUPŌ YOUTH GROUP: 83**

**YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH ROTORUA YOUTH
GROUP: 139**

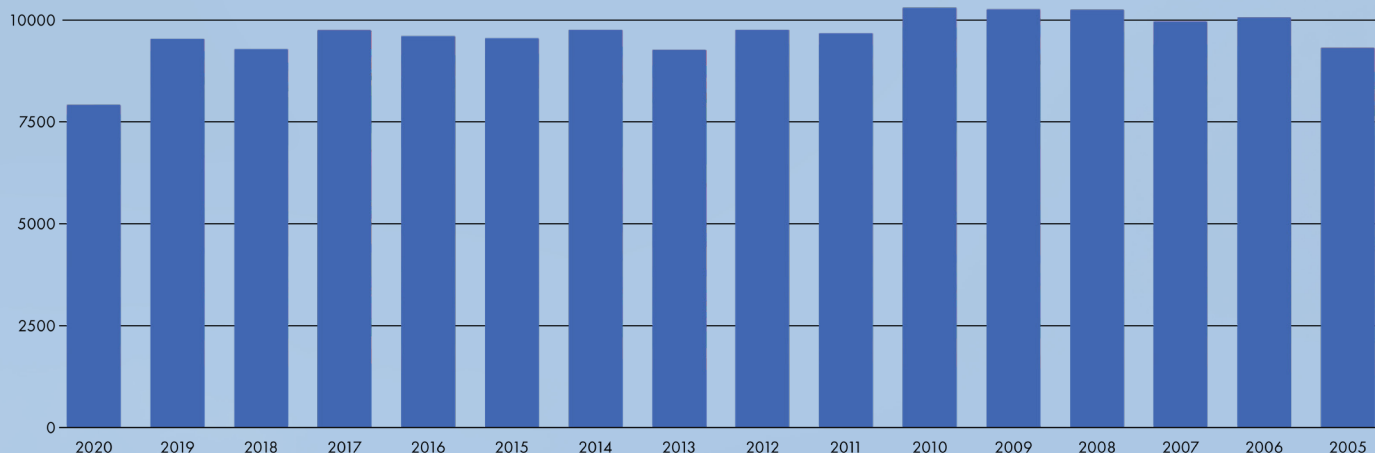
UNIQUE MINISTRY EVENTS & RETREATS HELD: 111



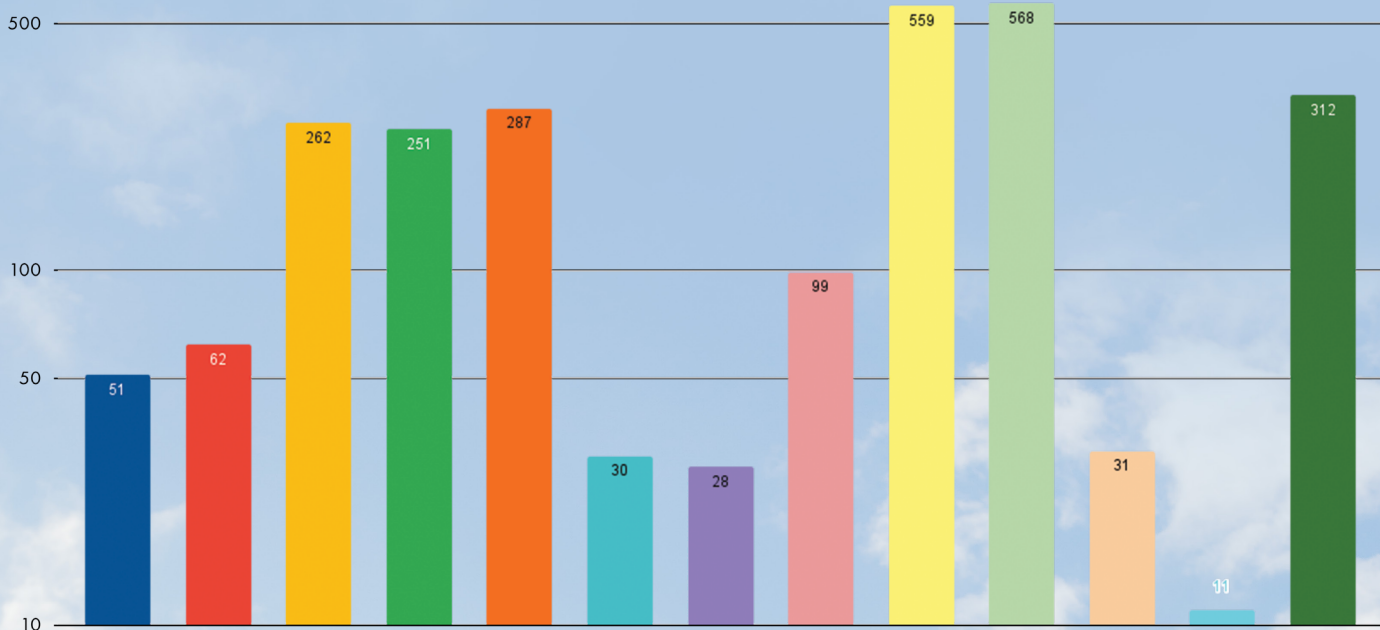
PHOEBE, NET 2021 HAMILTON TEAM 07

DIOCESAN PARISH STATISTICS

HAMILTON DIOCESE AVG. MASS COUNT (2005-2020)



SACRAMENTS IN THE DIOCESE 2021

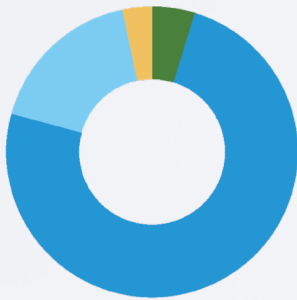


- No. of Mass centres
- RCIA Receptions
- No. of Confirmations
- No. of Masses
- RCICCA Receptions
- No. of Catholic Marriages
- No. of First Holy Communions
- No. of Baptisms (up to 1yr old)
- No. of Catechumens (those > 7 yrs preparing for Baptism)
- No. of Interfaith Marriages
- No. of Baptisms (1-7 yrs)
- No. of Deaths
- No. of Baptisms (over 7 yrs, incl. adults)



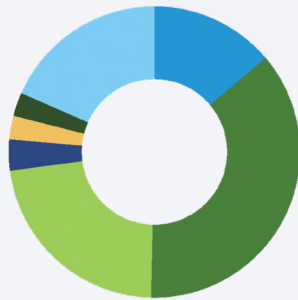
FINANCIAL STATISTICS

REVENUE



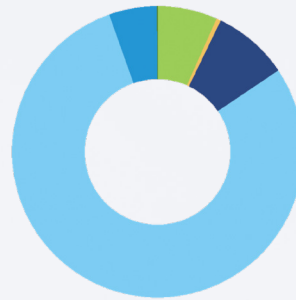
- Investment - \$887K
- Schools, Dues, Policy one - \$13.8M
- Grants / Donations / Contributions - \$3.3M
- Other revenue - \$615K

OPERATING EXPENSES



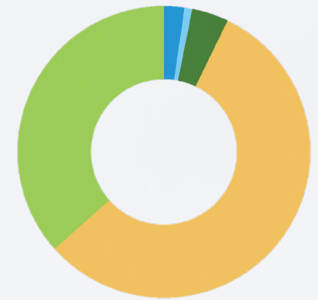
- Personnel - \$1.7M
- Schools - \$4.5M
- Depreciation - \$2.8M
- Insurance - \$422K
- Finance costs (depositors) - \$324K
- Levies - \$321K
- Other - \$2.3M

ASSETS



- Cash and cash equivalents - \$14.5M
- Receivables - \$1.1M
- CDF Investments - \$18.2M
- Property, plant and equipment - \$171M
- Attendance Dues Scheme - \$11.5M
- Other - \$258K

LIABILITIES



- Payables - \$1M
- Income in advance - \$400K
- Other Liabilities - \$1.9M
- CDF Depositors Funds - \$25.7M
- Loans and borrowings - \$16.7M



PARISH PROPERTY

CONOR CROKE

AT THE SERVICE OF THE MISSION

"This element of the Diocesan strategic pastoral plan focuses on property, that is, land and buildings in our parishes. Property is always at the service of mission. It does not determine the mission. We cannot afford to keep property that is not conducive for mission today and in the years to come. Likewise, we cannot afford to not prepare for the mission in the years ahead. The decisions we make today will enable mission or provide a millstone for mission in years to come."

- Strategic Plan for Property, May 24th, 2021, Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church.

In 2021 the Parish Property Support Manager Role was created to offer assistance to our parishes. The aim of the role is to assist parishes in property and compliance matters and to streamline approval processes for major works. Still in its infancy, the first 12 months of the role has been spent developing a number of plans for the years ahead.

10 year maintenance plans are being created to assist parishes to plan ahead, budget for maintenance items and ensure statutory maintenance requirements are achieved. The long term goal is to see reactive maintenance costs reduced while also providing extended life to our buildings and equipment.

Parishes are working on their earthquake prone buildings

and developing plans on future proofing, as per government requirements.

While small, one of the most important tasks commenced this year is healthy homes assessments on our presbyteries. While this may not be a statutory requirement, we have a duty of care to our priests to provide safe, healthy and comfortable living conditions and to date some minor quick fixes have occurred to improve the properties.

Statistics:

Almost 30,000km covered this year.

Across the Diocese we have 162 parish buildings, ranging from churches, halls, presbyteries, houses and garages.

In the last number of years we have had approx. 17 buildings disposed of or sold.

Works completed last year include carpet replacements, roof repairs, building removals and relocations.

Good News Story:

In 2019 St. Patrick's in Te Puke closed its doors due to its low earthquake assessment rating, but over the past 12 months the parish came together and with some extensive thought and engineering guidance, the church undertook exterior bracing which strengthened the church far beyond the government limit.

In building terms, the project was relatively low cost and once again the church is back in use, celebrating their first mass back on Christmas Day 2021.



EDUCATION

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' REPORT

JOHN COULAM, DIANNE PORTER & PAUL SHANNON

The 2021 school year was full of challenges for all those associated with our Catholic schools particularly the challenges faced as a result of Covid 19. Once again our schools faced periods of lockdown, online learning and designated 'bubble' learning for those that were allowed to attend. The biggest challenge for the staff of the Diocesan Catholic Education Office was to stay connected with the schools through visits, where permissible, and through Zoom, email and online courses.

For those working in the schools, the rules were changing almost daily. There were extra stresses having to deal with the emotional effects of Covid on the students, staff and families and also the added pressure of having to implement Government mandates.

Each school year begins with the Commissioning Mass usually held in three separate locations: Hamilton, central Bay of Plenty and Gisborne. The theme of Companionship One Another was used by Bishop Steve in his homily referring to the familiar image of Dame Whina Cooper on her hikoī, demonstrating her strong leadership in social justice and Catholic faith.

Amongst all the disruption a wonderful highlight at the start of the year was the opening of Suzanne Aubert Catholic

School in Papamoa. We were also fortunate to be able to hold the annual Director of Religious Studies and Principals' Conference in May, where the focus was on the theme of our strategic plan, "Living no longer for ourselves but for Christ." Participants explored what Companionship might look like in a school setting. We were delighted to achieve 100% representation from all schools and colleges during the two days.

In between lockdowns eight schools underwent Catholic Character Reviews. In the last 6 months we welcomed a change of principals at St Joseph's Paeroa, St Patrick's Taupō, Bishop Edward Gaines Tokoroa, St Joseph's Waihi, and St Michael's Rotorua.

The diocesan staff continued to be involved in delivering Te Kupenga professional development courses relating to Religious Education throughout the year:

- Spirituality for Teachers (online)
- RE Today (online)
- What Catholics Believe (online)
- Christian Ethics (face to face)
- Interpreting the New Testament
- Teachers New to Catholic Schools (pilot online)
- Creative Prayer workshops in primary schools



SCHOOLS PROPERTY

Suzanne Aubert

A decision to purchase land in Papamoa was first made in 2011, and in 2013 land was acquired by the Diocese. After many years of negotiations on the 6 March 2020, the Minister of Education signed the Integration agreement with the Proprietor of the Suzanne Aubert Catholic Primary School (RC Bishop of Hamilton).

The “turning of the sod” ceremony occurred on the 29 June 2020, and after just over six months, on the 3 February 2021 the school was formally opened by Bishop Steve Lowe, with an opening roll of 82 students.

After being open just over a year the roll is now sitting at 120 students.

Essential Property Maintenance Package (EPMP)

In July 2021, the Ministry of Education agreed to pass on additional property maintenance funding to all integrated schools in New Zealand.

For the schools within our Diocese (excluding SHCG) this is an additional \$5.2million of funding.

The projects are nominated by the school and must fall within the following categories:

- Health & Safety
- Essential Infrastructure
- Quality Learning Environments

We have until 31 August 2022 to get all the projects pre-approved and then the maintenance work will be carried out over the next two years.

FUNDRAISING

Parishes and parishioners alike have faced trying and challenging circumstances over the past two years and the diocese’s role is to support parishes as we respond to the many needs in the local churches.

The annual Seminary Appeal supports seminarians in our diocese discerning a vocation to Priesthood. The parish campaign, launched on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 2021, was supported by the Diocese through marketing, website and social media communications. Generous donations received from parishioners throughout the diocese was much appreciated for the formation of our future priests.

A major fundraising initiative of the Diocese in 2021 was the Bishop’s Appeal in September, asking us all to companion our Bishop in the work of mission. Bishop’s pastoral priorities for 2021 focused on marriage and family life, young

adult ministries, social justice and parish education and formation. Easy donation options via the diocesan website portal assisted parishes in the administration of collecting donations. It was good to see many parishioners use this option when making donations and we’re very grateful for their generous response and for those who have committed to regular giving for the continued pastoral life of their parish and the wider Diocese.

In order to further assist parishes, a website portal ‘Parish Support Giving’ is now available. Knowing the difficulties experienced by many in attending Mass and being involved in, or contributing to the life of the church in current circumstances, many parishioners now have the option to make donations via the diocesan website, with the donor’s funds being specifically directed to the parish or aid agency of their choice.



LETTER FROM BISHOP STEVE

BISHOP STEPHEN LOWE

SO I LEAVE MY BOATS BEHIND

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Seven years ago, on the 13th of February 2015 I processed into the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a priest and processed out as a bishop, your bishop. Over the last seven years you, the people of the Diocese of Hamilton, the laity, religious and priests, have helped shape and form me as a bishop as I tried my best to respond to the Lord's call to me in the various encounters, moments and challenges of the seven years.

There is no such thing as a perfect bishop as there is no such thing as a perfect person. I have tried my best within the limits of my gifts, limitations, foibles, faults and personal sinfulness. Often when confronted with various people or situations I have struggled with what is the right thing to say or do. I'm no different to anyone else as we all try to engage in the various relationships of life. Sometimes we get things right, and sometimes we get things wrong in this age where the expectation is that we always do the right thing and everyone has to agree with what we think. At the same time a weakness of mine is to allow fear and resentment to take root in my heart and thinking and this impacts on my ability to speak, act and love as Christ calls me to speak, act and love.

So if along the way over these past seven years I have hurt or harmed you, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, whether intentionally or unintentionally, please accept my sincere apology. It is never my intention to hurt or harm any one of you and so I humbly ask for your forgiveness.

At the same time there have been so many encounters and moments that have made my heart soar and I thank you for these. I have truly loved being your bishop. I have loved you, the clergy, religious and people of the Diocese of Hamilton. Thank you for the blessing you have been

to me and for all the encouragement, challenge, support and joy you have been. I have loved praying with and for you and working together with you in the Lord's vineyard. Through you I have learnt so much more of the wonder and wonders of our God of love.

When I was appointed the Bishop of Hamilton I chose for my motto, Ko te Ariki tōku Hēpara - the Lord is my Shepherd, for the Lord is the one who has shepherded me throughout my life. At my ordination as your bishop I chose the same Gospel I had at my priestly ordination at Hokitika in 1996 where Jesus asks Peter three times, do you love me?, and where Jesus three times instructs Peter to feed and look after his flock. The image of the shepherd and the sheep is an image of the wilderness for in the Gospel imagery that is where the sheep live. Even today the shepherds of the Holy Land are seen each morning leading their sheep out into the desert to find pasture and water with the shepherds calling their flock and the sheep following his call. This is the vocation of us all to listen for the call of Christ the Good Shepherd and to follow him with generosity and trust.

In December I received a phone call from the Nuncio with the request from Pope Francis that I accept a new appointment as the Bishop of Auckland. When many years ago I was asked to go overseas to study, my mother, who was becoming more frail in her old age, said to me, "I want you to do what the Church asks of you - you are not to consider me in your decision." It reminds me of another mother who said, "Do whatever he tells you." Indeed, all through the Scriptures and the lives of the saints, we see the model of discipleship is to respond generously to the Lord's call. What I hadn't picked up till later that day when I celebrated Mass, was that the psalm of the day was "The Lord is my Shepherd." Once again, I knew he was walking before me calling me onward. As I left my home town of Hokitika for the Seminary, the recessional hymn at Mass was the Galilee Song, So I leave my boats behind!

Leave them on familiar shores! Set my heart upon the deep!
Follow you again, my Lord!

On Sunday the 13th of February 2022, seven years to the day after I processed into the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a priest and processed out as your bishop, I will again process into and out of your Cathedral but this time as the Bishop of Auckland before moving north. In the meantime you may see me occasionally as I have been appointed Apostolic Administrator of Hamilton until such time as a new bishop is appointed. Please pray for the process that will lead to the appointment of a new Bishop of Hamilton.

As I move, I will hold the Hamilton Diocese within my heart, grateful for the blessings I have received with and from you. As I go, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God as I will certainly pray for you.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd

+Steve Lowe, Apostolic Administrator

+ Steve Lowe





CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HAMILTON
NEW ZEALAND

