

Where is the Spirit leading us as a Church

Our Church feels broken and fragmented. The sexual abuse scandal and the Church's exclusive, formal teaching on marriage and sexuality are seriously undermining the mission of the Gospel.

The sexual abuse situation is not just a scandal, it is an indication that our model of leadership, ordained priesthood, formation and pastoral care needs major review:

- Ordained Priesthood needs to be open to women, married people, and single people.
- There needs to be a set of professional standards, appraisal and review for priests, parishes and dioceses. (As a mechanism of support: no other vocation requires as little on-going PD and monitoring as priesthood – it seems ironic given the importance of the call and person.)

- The Church needs to overtly welcome people in irregular relationships and support and bless all relationships where people commit to one another in love. It can still teach beautifully on what love is, what commitment means, and how relationships can be nurtured and grown, but it needs to move completely away from withholding Sacraments on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status.

We also wish to acknowledge the wonderful direction the Church takes in terms of Social Justice, NOPS, interfaith dialogue and new evangelisation

To continue to translate the Gospel - to life in 21st century New Zealand

To pray the Synod prayer, as adapted by Ann Gilroy, often:

*Spirit of God, as we journey together, inspire us to dream
about the Church we are called to be,
to make people's hopes flourish,
to stimulate trust,
to bind up wounds,
to weave new and deeper relationships,
to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts
and restores strength to our hands, for the good of all in our common
mission.*

*We ask this Holy Spirit as you draw us into the communion of Divine Love.
Amen*

- Listen to and connect with the ethnic communities in our Diocese.
- Learn more about bi-culturalism so we can integrate that more on our faith journey.
- Continue to develop practical support for the holistic vision of Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti
- Continue to support ecumenical and interfaith initiatives- including support for the Muslim community

Almost feel too sad to answer this question:

It is beyond me. It is beyond our NZ church.

We can bleat on about the patriarchal Church, but where will it get us? Our voice will likely not be heard.

Let's do what we do best as Parish. That's what keeps me coming along each week and strengthens my journey with God.

- The Spirit is leading us to faith and love.
- To the heavenly peace and a happy godly love.
- To lead rich countries to thrive and help poor and war torn countries not just their own countries.
- To everlasting life with God.
- Providing guidance for our soul
- Guidance about right and wrong, good and evil.
- Leading us to God.
- Leading us to believe in one God the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Leading us to pray and have faith in God.
- Thanks be to God.
- To be diverse, welcoming and reaching out to others in time of need.
- Our pope speaks out against atrocities and asks us to listen to his pleas.
- It leads us to develop good relations and trust of each other. We need to share our culture during Mass and be open to other and accept our differences.
- To be united and persevere and resilient to the challenges that the world is on. To strengthen the faith and trust in the Lord.
- Joining together in Almighty Name.
- Bringing everyone together in the name of God.
- To cease being passive, to be involved, where our gifts can be shared whatever they are—large or small. Not to wait, to always be led by clergy. To pray to the Holy Spirit to see our pathway clearly.
- The spirit of the church, I believe similarly like the parish, oneness and peace and love share among everyone and a life that is of the teaching of Jesus Christ.
- The spirit leading us to a good life and a good living
- Working together
- Holy Spirit leading us to heaven.
- I believe the Holy Spirit is leading us as the church to God The Almighty to reveal the Mystery of trinity.
- Lord help me to be good.
- Home
- To be one large loving caring family to guiding all in this world we live.

- To work together as one, to Pray for one another, to be open and let God in our lives.
- To unite us as a community.
- Make it more accessible to youth.
- Dialogue with other religious communities, find common ground.
- To make a huge effort to reconnect with the young generation to start attending mass, see a “reason” to believe in God and get up to date.
- To have lady Deacons, Mary was always there making decisions, this is especially needed where there are no priests. Prayer intercessory established in parishes.
- The Spirit is leading us to God.
- Love one and other, help each other.
- Encouragement, sense of involvement,
- Greater role for woman in church, leadership , ordination in Rome
- Spirit is always leading us to take only the right decision in our lives so as a church he will lead us to good.
- Compared to the churches in the East, NZ is very liberal. My opinion is NZ church slowdown a little and become similar to the rest of the world.
- As a parish.
- To be a meaningful institution in this modern world. To be more responsive to change instead of being too rigid and driving people away especially young people.
- To bear witness to the teaching of Jesus.
- The spirit leading us to faith with humility and God himself.
- The spirit leading us to the honest and love of people. Opening mind to help us more understand our God and do more and more good things for people in society and our own family.
- More openness to ALL people. Ordination of women. This can no longer be denied or justified as an only male clergy. Allow priests to marry if they fall in love.
- I am unworthy to answer this question. Ahead of a future unknown, a path untrod, beside you a friend well loved and known, that Friend is

God.

- As the world becomes more politicized , the courage to speak out against wars and atrocities.
- To be more thoughtful of others.
- More open, less restricted, married priests.
- To Heaven I hope.
- To be a peace making community.
- We need to learn about the universal church so that we in our comfortable lives know and care about the poverty of the church in developing countries.
- He is leading us to God and that is all you need. Leading us together as a family.
- I am always happy when I come to Church, because I see people I get to see regularly, slowly becoming my second family. I also feel so happy when I leave in that feeling stays with me for ages. I love coming to church it's my highlight of my week. I have embraced the Holy Spirit and I love him.
- Spirit leading us to God Almighty.
- To lead as to be faithful to him.
- Global awareness
- The Church of the people, people praying together, looking after one another.
- To always put charity first in our treatment of others.
- To be more inclusive especially of women and other marginalized members of the body of Church.
- We have many wrongs from the past that still need addressing—this has begun but we have a long way to go and we need the spirit to guide us.
- Open our knowing and that with all of each one of us. To be ready to speak with one another and in kindness and gentleness.
- Collective visible action of compassion and mercy to all.
- We need to pray more, we need peace in the world.
- Trust, trusting people in your church.
- To be more open to acknowledging past harms. We have made a

good start. I hope to see moves towards woman and married priests in perhaps 10-20 years I have left!

- To be more welcoming to strangers. Follow up to people who have had deaths in their families. Proper well trained church choir to visit other churches. Talks on religion to explain gospel, church liturgy, feasts etc.
- The spirit leads us a church to be more loving, caring, empathetic to towards those who are not with a church. Standing together to unite against evil works.
- To unity with other Christian faiths. To peace, justice and love. To be Christs hands and feet and his voice.
- Into forgiveness and reconciliation , celebration.
- To be inclusive and courageous. To name wrong behavior and give the response of Jesus life as the truth of the Catholic Church. To be joyful, to celebrate Mass in as many ways and places as reaches people.
- Loving all parishioners.
- Church, respect, help families in need, with poverty and spirit with the community.
- Togetherness, having communion with our creator and our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- The church needs to front up honestly to the wrongs done then it will be a humble church.
- We need to be more relevant in today's world, very few young people attend mass. Need to own mistakes of the past/present.
- I appreciate the fact of the availability to go to Mass and Sacraments locally.
- We need to love one another more.
- When COVID is over I believe attendances at church will be like before. I think the parishes have come together very well and will continue to grow.
- To be more committed to growing in holiness through prayer and service.
- To serve like how Jesus serves his Father—for us, is to serve on another and when outside of church too. To be honest about our faults and to be compassionate to those around us. Draw us closer as a community with the Body of Christ as the apex of the Catholic Church.
- To reflect on the gospels and try to follow the word of God,

particularly by the example of Pope Francis.

- Needs to be less Patriarchal and more equitable in roles for diverse groups. More inclusive. Divest ourselves of the accumulated wealth image that Catholics have.
- To meet as a gathering community.
- To help us unite as a family and treat everyone as an equal.
- To embrace the future, to connect with the modern world. To be more relevant and real for young people so that the word of God lives on in the daily lives of parishioners now and in the future.
- Friendship and support.
- To understand the love of God and learn to love him more.
- To finally embrace Christianity as followers of Christ rather than religion.
- The church has the opportunity to be a place of healing and reconciliation. In light of the sexual abuses being uncovered, how we demonstrate true repentance and a desire to bring healing to those hurt is extremely important.
- The importance of an all-inclusive church.
- To follow the lead of the vulnerable. To listen and respond to the LGBTQ community.
- To heaven I hope.
- To be more charitable in thoughts and deeds.
- The message of the church remains relevant to all peoples. Unfortunately, many are closed to the messages.
- I think we should have a Mass for sexual abuse survivors and their families and friends so we can move as a church.
- To include all, to support and calmness in one self.
- Greater awareness of international people and boundary restrictions. Increased adaption to external measures and forces (100 max etc) Dismay at lack of inclusion of the young.
- The spirit is all prevailing.
- To be a place or institution of great hope in which we are people who reflect the love of God in our actions and worship.
- Change regarding women in clerical positions.
- Towards peace and good of all men.
- To be more like the disciples, closer to fulfillment, a place of happiness and joy where God is. Pope Francis.
- To love and accept one another as God loves us.

- To have the spirit of generosity to people who need help to live a life without want or fear.
- Leading us to pray together and care for each other.
- To unity.
- To be more ecumenical
- Greater place for women in church governance, review of compulsory celibacy for clergy—not good at moment.
- To be more unified.
- We need to modernize our thoughts and ways to reflect today's world. Equality in Male/Female church activities. Priests to marry.
- Understanding and unity with other religions and beliefs.
- To be more inclusive of women especially ministries to be open to women, homilies and leadership. To optional, celibacy, to inclusion of diverse people.
- To cater for all our parishioners in our worship and praise as a community.
- The spirit is leading us to come closer.
- Always open doors to share the difficulties to God. As a church, it really offers a chance to be a good person in all means by reflecting one minds and thoughts.
- The spirit is leading us as the church to meet with the God in a place where we can feel safe.
- It leads us towards a feeling of 1. togetherness, 2. thankful, 3. kindness, 4. humility and gratitude.
- To unite us as one people.
- To be as Christ, non-judging and seeing the person, not the sin.
- Prayer for people in need, prayer for unbelievers of Jesus Christ to come to know him.
- We have a wonderful parish community and we can build on it by selling up pockets of prayer all around the parish.
- To be bold and courageous as the Spirit put the First Apostles on fire. Reaching out to the real world. Living simply.
- I feel the spirit want the church to be bold and vocal in defying labels the world puts on us, you see the church breaking apart because people and bishops define themselves by the worldly label of “conservative” or “progressive”. We must be clear we aim to follow

Christ and not get lost in worldly labels.

- Prayer. To strengthen our faith by helping each other at group meetings, standing proud in challenging times, standing together united in faith.
- Everyone received blessing or accepted to hear a truly holy spirit from house of God church.
- To return to the Eucharist. Unity of love.
- The challenge will be for all as sons and daughters of our God—to be insulated.
- New understanding of what it means to be church. Listening to other faiths in the world.
- To become more welcoming and inclusive.
- The number of people attending Holy Mass.
- To be more ecumenical. Discard robes. More women priests.
- To be strong with our faith in God with challenging times ahead and at present.
- To be more tolerant of modern society e.g. acceptance of divorce.
- Genuine loving.
- Pray for peace.
- To increase the role and voice of women. To rethink leadership structure.
- Jesus said love God above all others and love our neighbours above ourselves.
- How do I/we meet the Pope's/Jesus directive to reach out to the needs of the poor.
- As a parish
- Faith in the Holy Trinity that they will always be there for us with love.
- Be more gender inclusive—male/female clergy. Get modern discard the robes.
- Tangible community outreach. But how.? Not sure myself. Love the opshop and soup nights. Continue repentance as a group for church mistakes. Continue dedication to mindfulness in each service.

Ideas to involve parishioners in activities to bring more social and learning interaction. Parish members to be mentors for Kavanagh College pupils who need confidence building, stability, father or mother figure or just a friend. Some sort of group meeting for likeminded people (religion, art, music) monthly. A parish walking group, bus trips to places of interest. A festival once a year or two with a variety of parishioners setting up stalls, activities, crafts etc. A parish concert. A proper religious choir which visits other churches. Bake-offs. Youth taking on elderly helping with gardens etc, talking and becoming extended family.

Talks and demonstrations by experts.

Jesus came into the world to show us how to know love and serve God. So our Baptismal mandate is to come to know God through our commitment to prayer. Hence the importance of family and community prayer with a genuine love of neighbor regardless of race or creed. I quote from Mons Kylie's sermon Mass on Sunday to the Boy of St Paul's College Auckland. The focus of this sermon was "participate, pray, praise (the less confident)" and be proud of your college. Message! Be proud of your faith, "Participate, pray, praise" (enlighten those who struggle) This sample prayer was published in the TABLET many years ago. A good way to dedicate your day to God. Through the most pure heart of Mary & Joseph. My God I offer you all my prayers, works, joys and suffering of this day in union with your son, Jesus Christ. I offer them in thanksgiving your favors, in reparation for my offences, for the conversion of sinners and relief of the souls in purgatory. I wish to make all my acts of prayer and gain whatever merits these works shall deserve.

Future of Church including leadership and management

- CO-LEADERSHIP*# with the laity in strategic, operational, ministry and pastoral work. I believe that the Church has to move from the Clericalism- Magisterium mind-set that has allowed the present structural issues to inhibit our energy and ability to live the gospel. We are so risk averse that the 'tail wags the dog' Witness the sexual abuse holocaust.
- The present model of church in NZ has to move to the co-leadership framework where initiative and developments can be initiated by laity as well as Bishops Conference. The Synodial model is a classic example of a good idea hamstrung by the lack of terms of reference and a clear mandate for who and what we will do/change(transparency) - a talk fest risk.
- I think the educational model of integrated schools has proved that partnership and co-leadership can work. Witness the success of Catholic Schools, in fact a gift to the Church.
- I suspect things may get worse before they get better. Out of crisis comes opportunity and I think its coming down the road at us.
- A truism about young people being future of the church here, BUT lack of transparency and co-leadership frustrates them to death. They get connected by wanting world to be a better place/make a difference through social justice/action work, but cannot see or navigate the pathway to move this to next level of a vibrant living 'church/community' in the present model of 'Church' while we suffer the lack of co-leadership.
- I value our rich faith tradition. It is something we are good at(maybe too good) and the evidence is everywhere in Architecture, Liturgy(including" smells and bells", Mission, committed people etc etc. We have done 2000yrs and I'm sure as we are so good at playing the' long game' it will continue.

Conclusion

I suspect we can unleash the good will, competencies and people to move to a co-leadership model when the Bishops Conference is brave enough to move away its present inertia and risk adverse approach. . AND HAVE A CHANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN