**Minutes from The Catholic Parish of Whanganui Parish Focus Meeting held on Sunday 28th January 2018**

Fr Marcus opened with a prayer.

The meeting was composed of groups of 6 people with approx.10 people per group. 4 questions were asked- time was given to discuss each question, then a spokesperson relayed what the outcome of the discussion was for each group.

1. **How can we grow and strengthen and make more dynamic our Parish this year through sacraments and Liturgy?**

Group 1- Music- to be more uplifting before mass. Invite more youth to participate in sacraments, readings and be on the roster. A Maori hymn in each mass and a mass part.

Group 2- Energise Maori mass. Practice Maori words before mass. Our father in Maori and Filipino. Ensure pronunciation of readings is correct- so all can understand them. Faith sharing groups- more participation.

Group 3-Music, Liturgy worship- more understanding of the mass. The 4 DRS and principals of catholic schools to be more active in the parish community. Encourage families to be involved. Language- how to cater for all communities.

Group 4- More sense of welcoming. Encourage baptisms during mass. More uplifting music.

Group 5- Liturgy planning, more young readers, leaders welcoming people. To include all ethnic groups more.

Group 6- Being more dynamic, being a good person, showing more love.

1. **How can we strengthen our Parish through greater participation of Maori and other ethnic groups?**

Group 1- Get over hang-ups about other languages. It is part of our culture and obligation to make more effort in our liturgies and translation.

Group 2- To add a Maori or Filipino hymn per mass so we can learn it. Fully participate in the Miha/Filipino masses.

Group 3- To be bicultural respectful and more culturally diverse. Filipino mass parts in Filipino. More rituals, signs symbols that all speak for themselves. Virginia has offered to help with the pronunciation of Maori.

Group 4- Greetings- importance of welcoming. Energise people. What Catholic events are important to them in their cultures? Advertise Miha/Filipino masses.

Group 5-Invite other cultures to join in with the Faith sharing groups. What do other cultures want from us? To attend Indian Masses. Remember to hank people for their help music/cup of tea etc.

Group 6- Welcomers at mass. Volunteers out in community to meet people and make them feel welcome.

1. **How can we grow participation in our parish this year with more children, your families and teenagers?**

Group 1- Need youth leaders

Group 2- Encourage younger members to come to mass. Have youth masses, youth band. Ask the youth what do they want from us? How can we help you?

Group 3- Youth- need to feel part of mass, get them involved more. Better connection with schools and church. Need a youth group. Use technology more aiming at youth.

Group 4- Children prepare the liturgy. Youth music teacher. Strengthen schools and parishes- need activities organised outside of schools.

Group 5- Parents responsibility to encourage youth to take something back from masses.

Group 6- Set up program for returning or new Catholics.

1. **How can we enliven our parish this year through social justice and service initiatives?**

Group 1- Youth engagement and passion. Parish doesn’t always know what people are doing in the community. Cullinane social justice leadership team worked well in community

Group 2- Community activities. How much do we know parish is involved in. e.g. friendship meals, CSS parish contribution?

Group 3- Restorative justice- form a group interested in this. Hold a public reform for Issues such as euthanasia and abortion

Group 4- Give ourselves a pat on the back- we have a lot of support for people in our community, friendship meals, SVDP, visiting sick, prison the lonely, prayer vine.

Group 5- Social justice starts with prayer. Keep praying for people

Group 6- Volunteer to help, phone calls, grocery shopping etc for those who are lonely or no help. Start a Caring Caller service.

Initiatives coming up

Lenten seminars -7pm Wed of Lent at Te Rau Oriwa marae

Fijian community have requested a mass

25th Feb-11am St Marys school mass at the school followed by a parish picnic.

Kaiwhaiki 1st Sunday of the month mass to possibly be at Te Rau Oriwa

6th June Kaiwhaiki confirmation

Botanical Reserve family picnic day.

**Groups one comment for the Bishop**

1 School/parish connection rebuilding and revitalised.

2 Kneel at consecration

3 Better communication with Parish and Diocese

5 New and more effective strategies for young people and church

6 To see the Bishop more- get to know him.

Fr Marcus closed with a prayer