Parish Priest Report:

Looking back over the years of the Parishes and reading the letters and encouragement of the Previous Priests, here is one theme that comes strongly, There is a new Spring time, quoting Pope John Paul, and the new spring time is that the people of the Parish are called to be active and strong in their leadership and ministry. It was never talked about as if it was an alternative to the role of the Priest, but always in response to the call of our baptism. This was the call of so many pastoral leaders, even when there were many priests an religious in this parish., n we are baptised, we are baptised into the Body of Christ, we become like Christ, and if we are like Christ, we must be Christ to the world. To be the hands and the feet of the one who carry the Gospel of Good News and Salvation to everyone.

In our Parish, I offer a Vision that is fitting with what has been outlined in the Parish Council, and many groups.

***Healing,***

***Leadership,***

***Mission,***

***Hospitality***

***And Welcome.***

**What continues to impress me is the need** for a Church that is a healing, forgiving and ready to receive wounded and broken people among us. Because we tell a story of this. I want to have a Healing gathering this month to begin at least to address the hurts and pain of people. And a way of telling our stories that we may be able to receive the gift of peace and unity we often pray for.

**Leadership,** to give full reign to a Laity that are leaders in your fields of service, especially in our Liturgy and worship of God and in respond to people’s urgent needs of homelessness, and poverty, especially the Children. To have a pastoral council that images this to the Parish. This leadership requires training, and investment in people to use our gifts that God has provided. This is the priority of the Pastoral Staff in our Parish.

**The Mission of the Church**, is to find new ways of proclaiming the Gospel to the people of Manurewa and Auckland. We must never forget that the power of The Eucharist propels us out from St Anne’s, and examines us in our belief of Christ that we are a people who do what Christ teaches us. Go ou to the whole world and proclaim the Good news of Salvation. This is a way of detecting are on the right path in Following the Lord Jesus.

**A community shows how much we believe by the way we welcome the stranger**, and the migrant, and refugee, St Anne’s has always done this with an open and generous heart, Hospitality and gathering around food and drink, is so very important. To have after every Mass the opportunity to gather and talk with each other is a very high need. To do this we need people who will volunteer to make The Sunday Eucharist such a place of community and hospitality, that people will treasure these moment s of meeting each other.

**When people are new,** may we be the first to welcome them to St Anne’s, when there is a baptism and the families are struggling with their faith, and wanting just to fulfil a command, we welcome them, at the Sacraments we welcome them, we welcome those who bring their dead to be buried, we welcome them, we welcome the saint and the sinner, more the sinner than the saint, we want to make our parish a meeting place for Christ Jesus. This will be messy and sometimes disorganized and unsettled, but it will be a meeting place with Christ in the people who follow Him.

What has priority in our Parish.

* The way of bringing new people into our Faith, The Adults, the young, the children, the babies.
* RCIA and all the goes with it, this is the Parish response to people wanting to become Catholics.
* Marriage and Family Life need great affirmation and an urgent need to make St Anne’s is a Family and Marriage Friendly Parish. We believe that the Christian Family is the first response to a Crisis that the Church is going through.
* The Training and Education of Adults to have an Adult and alive faith. Especially in our Liturgy and Understanding of our Faith in an Adult Way. A love for and understanding of the Scriptures. F
or our Children to have a deep and loving faith that will keep them strong when they are faced with so many options opposing the Gospel.

As you look around today, what a sight, an army of workers, look what you have done you are called to be followers of the Lord Jesus, thank you for this, and in a particular way thank the Parish Council Father Percy for their insight into this in the beginning of the year, and thank you for your response we have before a mission that is great and cannot be done alone, let this day teach us that together we can be the hands and the feet of the Lord.

The Pope also suggests that we pray the most ancient Marian prayer often during the day, especially at morning and night,

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;*

*Do not despise our petitions*

*in our necessities,*

*but deliver us always*

*from all dangers,*

*O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.*

 In our Marist Constitutions that we as Marist Priests and Brother live by, our Founder Father Colin directed us to implore the help of her protection, let them recite the *Hail Mary* three times and *We Fly to your protection* once on rising in the morning and retiring in the evening.” We, are part of a very long tradition of Christians flying to Mary’s protection.

Is this possible in our families to pray the rosary, each day?

When we say we will, pray the rosary, good things happen and pray returns to our families and church.

It is no accident that our Expo of the Parish is celebrated on the Feast of the Holy Rosary.