



# EAST COAST BAYS Catholic Parish



## Parish Pastoral Plan 2026 - 2028

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The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.' This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship, and celebration. In all its activities, the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.

*Evangelii Gaudium*, 28. (On the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World), Pope Francis, 2013.

## What is a Parish Pastoral Council?

A Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a group within a parish that collaborates with the parish priest to foster spiritual growth and support the mission of the church. The council typically consists of parishioners chosen by the community, and its main functions include pastoral planning, promoting dialogue, and ensuring the parish's activities align with its mission.

In 1971, it became mandatory for each parish in the Diocese of Auckland to have a Parish Pastoral Council. The Parish Pastoral Council is not a body of representatives but a representative body whose primary function is to set the vision and plan to make "the life and activity of the parish ever more closely conform to the gospel." Their focus is on the pastoral aspect of the parish (see Appendix A).

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) consists of the Parish Priest and a team of parishioners chosen by the parish community. The Councillors work collaboratively to build a vital Christian community in which parishioners' spiritual growth is fostered and their baptismal calls to mission are discerned and supported (see Appendix B).

## Our Parish Community

Rooted in a rich historical tradition, the East Coast Bays Catholic Parish encompasses two churches: St. Francis de Sales in Torbay and St. John the Baptist in Mairangi Bay. These churches serve as welcoming spaces where faith is nurtured, community bonds are strengthened, and parish life continues to flourish. Both play a vital role in the life of the parish, offering liturgical celebrations, sacramental programs, and pastoral initiatives to meet the spiritual needs of the local community.

Operating under one pastoral leadership, the two churches share a unified vision of fostering a vibrant, faith-filled, and inclusive Catholic community—committed to worship, service, and evangelisation.

Throughout the year, East Coast Bays Parish has continued to offer a wide range of programs and initiatives that encourage engagement across all age groups. From children's and youth ministries to adult faith formation, hospitality, and prayer groups, the parish remains a place where individuals and families can grow in faith, find connection, and contribute meaningfully to the mission of the Church.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to cultivate a loving, inclusive, and caring Christ-like community that inspires everyone to share the message of Jesus Christ.

## Our Vision

To cultivate a loving, caring, and Christ-centered community that embodies compassion, fosters spiritual growth, and inspires all to encounter Jesus Christ.

## Our Parish – Core Working Committees

### ECB Parish Pastoral Council

The East Coast Bays Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was established in 2018 to support the pastoral and spiritual growth of the parish community. The current council is a representative body made up of the parish priest, assistant priest, and parishioners, each overseeing key portfolios with the support of sub-committees. Meeting monthly, the PPC works collaboratively with the Parish Priest to drive the parish vision by planning pastoral activities and ensuring that parish life aligns more closely with the Gospel.

The PPC shares responsibility with the Parish Priest for the spiritual and pastoral care of the community. Its mission is to serve Christ by fostering faith, encouraging service, and strengthening the sense of belonging and community within the parish.

### Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Committee has been assisting the parish priest for many years, supporting the Church's mission through sound financial stewardship and the effective management of parish financial affairs.

The committee ensures accountability and provides advice and support to the parish priest in the following areas:

- Resourcing: Ensuring the parish has the financial capacity to maintain assets, facilities, and provide financial support for pastoral initiatives.
- Planning and Budgeting: Developing, monitoring, and overseeing financial plans and budgets.
- Accounting: Administering parish income, ensuring accurate record-keeping, and safeguarding parish financial resources.

## ECB Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee

Councillors are nominated from members of the parish community by the members of the community during the Annual General Meeting & Finance Committee Members are appointed by the Parish Priest. Each term of office is three years, with a maximum total term of six years. Succession planning will be reviewed every three years to ensure a mix of existing and new members on the Council.

### Key areas of responsibility managed by the Parish Pastoral Council & Finance Committee

- Since inception considerable work has been undertaken by Parish Councillors and Finance Committee members to assist in understanding the past, embracing the present, and setting the platform for the future – parish, pastoral and financial. Work has been undertaken in the following areas:
- Understanding existing structure, operations, costs and legacy issues.
- Identifying and working through maintenance issues.
- Upgrading Parish office layout, IT and furniture.
- Reviewing communication tools and databases to allow a greater variety of communication methods.
- Maintaining pastoral care and liturgical celebrations.
- Establish 3 paid roles of Operations & Finance Manager, Liturgy and Pastoral Coordinator & Office and Communications Assistant.
- Continuing to build community through events and celebrations.
- Identifying and planning for building upgrades.
- Developing a Parish Pastoral Strategic Plan to assist the growth and development of our parish community and set the platform for the future of the parish.

## Tasks performed by Volunteers

In living out our mission as a vibrant and faith-filled community, our parish offers a wide range of ministries that provide meaningful opportunities for all members to actively participate in parish life. By working together, we can achieve remarkable outcomes in pastoral care, liturgical service, and community outreach. We warmly invite all parishioners to explore the list of ministries available and prayerfully consider how you may be called to contribute and be involved. For more information or to register your support, please visit the parish website or contact the parish office.



## Where we are aiming to go

### Focus from Pope Francis

"I have a dream. I dream of a 'missionary option' for the Church, so that all her structures can be used for evangelization of today's world rather than for her own self-preservation." Pope Francis further explains that this is not an "ERA OF CHANGE. It is a CHANGE OF ERA." In his vision and that of the diocese, the parish becomes a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.

**Inspired by these words from Pope Francis and the guidelines of the Auckland Diocese we enter the next 3 years with the following goals:**

### To move from a Maintenance to a Missional Parish by

- Forming Missionary Disciples through faith enhancement and education
- Being in regular contact with parishioners in their homes and lives
- Rebuilding the local Church by opening ourselves to the diversity amongst us
- Redefining Pastoral Care to include outreach to the wider community
- Moving from a ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry.
- Encouraging and training our members to be evangelizers

### To develop the qualities of a Missionary Disciple in each parish member so that

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • They have a personal relationship with Jesus  | • They experience real Christian community         |
| • They can share their faith with others        | • They are committed to Sunday Eucharist           |
| • They are open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit | • They celebrate the Sacraments regularly          |
| • They have knowledge and love of Scripture     | • They can pray spontaneously out loud when asked  |
| • They know basic Christian theology            | • They see their life as a mission field           |
| • They have a daily prayer life                 | • They participate in one renewal course each year |



## Three main priorities that will be focuses on within our parish

**Priority 1:**     **Evangelization and Outreach** ~ *To share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community and invite others to join us on our faith Journey.*  
**Goal - Increase participation in parish events and activities within the next 3 years.**

**Priority 2:**     **Faith Formation** ~ *To provide opportunities for spiritual growth and development for parishioners of all ages.*  
**Goal - Provide faith formation opportunities for parishioners within the next 3 years.**

**Priority 3:**     **Community building** ~ *To foster a sense of belonging and connection among parishioners.*  
**Goal - Increase participation in Parish social events within the next 3 years.**

# ECBP Strategic Plan 2026-2028

What Actions do we need to undertake to achieve our goals?

2026

<b>PASTORAL PRIORITY - 1</b>	<b>Evangelization and Outreach</b> To share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community and invite others to join us on our faith Journey.
<b>GOAL</b>	Increase participation in parish events and activities within the next 3 years.
<b>OBJECTIVES SUGGESTED</b>	Development of a social media strategy to promote events Host a Parish wide outreach event to invite non practicing Catholics and others to join our community.
<b>WHAT</b>	<b>HOW (ACTIONS)</b>
1. Share The Good News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the Good news of how the Lord has blessed us- faith testimonies of our parishioners.</li> <li>• Interactive Praise and Worship nights/evenings - to encourage deeper connection to God through music and worship.</li> <li>• Praying over and healing masses - quarterly.</li> <li>• Faith film nights - screen faith based movies followed by discussion on faith themes.</li> </ul>
2. Multi-Cultural Liturgy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The multicultural and liturgical committees to find various cultures to work alongside Parish Priests to integrate multicultural elements into worship practices.</li> </ul>
3. School to Play a Bigger Part in Parish & Community Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise Parish &amp; School Masses where children &amp; parents are encouraged to attend and to get involved in church ministries - to encourage greater collaboration.</li> <li>• School staff and community members to be on Parish or liturgy committees.</li> </ul>
4. Youth Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-start ECB Youth group, Young Adults community and Youth bible study group - to share, learn &amp; grow in faith.</li> <li>• Youth Alpha - to create an environment safe for youth to feel comfortable to talk about their faith.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECB Parish Youth Working group - Create a youth volunteer crew.</li> </ul>
5. Best Use of Digital resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a digital outreach strategy – Relaunch or revamp our parish Facebook group/page &amp; identify other social media options including, Instagram, Parish Website, and our parish group email messaging to create and grow parish presence.</li> <li>Use the digital resources to - share short you-tube/ video messages, post inspirational video messages - Podcasts with our Shepherds, Mass times, personal invitations, feast day highlights and ongoing church events e.g. Alpha invitations, parish barbeque etc.</li> </ul>
6. Wider Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with local organisations to organise a cleanup day in a park, beach, or neighbourhood &amp; at our church.</li> <li>Revitalise our content, send parish working group invites to engage both current and potential Parishioners</li> </ul>

<b>PASTORAL PRIORITY - 2</b>	<b>Faith Formation</b> <b>To provide opportunities for spiritual growth and development for parishioners of all ages.</b>
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Provide faith formation opportunities for parishioners within the next 3 years.</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES SUGGESTED</b>	<b>Develop a comprehensive faith formation program for adults, youth, and children Recruit and train faith formation leaders and volunteers.</b>
<b>WHAT</b>	<b>HOW (ACTIONS)</b>
1. Faith Formation / Faith Building Activities to Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCIA- Introduction to catholic faith to continue.</li> <li>Alpha - to provide a welcoming space for parishioners to explore and deepen their faith, to ask questions and encounter Christ in a safe environment.</li> <li>Life in the Spirit Seminars (LISS) - to renew and ignite the power of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism and Confirmation.</li> <li>Organise annual retreats for ladies &amp; men at ECBP - to be led by the diocese, retreat on mindfulness and prayer.</li> <li>Sacramental retreats for children and parents preparing for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.</li> <li>Workshop on living in faith in the workplace with guest speakers.</li> </ul>
2. Create a Faith Formation Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What next after RCIA, Alpha, LISS - Information on discipleship courses, leadership in Church - development courses.</li> </ul>

3. Faith Formation Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible study groups - to establish small groups focused on scripture, faith discussions, life application, focusing on contemporary faith challenges.</li> <li>• Sisterhood ladies group - with faith formation at it's heart.</li> <li>• Spiritual book club - read and discuss books on faith and spirituality, catering to different age groups.</li> <li>• Create a family friendly study session that includes activities for children while parents engage in discussion.</li> <li>• Retreats to spiritually reconnect with God.</li> </ul>
4. Liturgy Participation / Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advent &amp; Lenten programs using resources from dioceses - to be led by lay ministers.</li> <li>• Candle-light service, mass and a follow-up care plan, to offer grief support for those who have lost loved ones.</li> <li>• Support small Parish Prayer groups: Once a quarter at masses, get a couple of groups to share the purpose of their group and offer the opportunity to invite new members to visit and find out more.</li> </ul>
5. Digital & Media to Create an On-line Faith Resources Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipping and resourcing families to practice their faith at home by - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing links/ access to daily reflections, devotions, guided prayers, and catholic media for all ages.</li> <li>- upload video lessons to understand scriptures, videos that explain Catholic teachings in simple easy to understand language.</li> <li>- to curate a list of recommended books and articles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>PASTORAL PRIORITY - 3</b>	<b>Community Building</b> To foster a sense of belonging and connection among parishioners.
<b>GOAL</b>	Increase participation in Parish social events within the next 3 years.
<b>OBJECTIVES SUGGESTED</b>	Develop a comprehensive faith formation program for adults, youth, and children Recruit and train faith formation leaders and volunteers.
<b>WHAT</b>	<b>HOW (ACTIONS)</b>
1. Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish &amp; School to share information for newsletters - share community stories, upcoming events, and faith reflections to connect both groups.</li> <li>• Identify creative ways for announcements and introductions after mass. e.g. adds to PowerPoint.</li> </ul>
2. Introduce Pastoral Care Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an outreach committee:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify and take communion &amp; read the word with those who are isolated, sick and unable to attend mass.</li> <li>- deliver handwritten notes or small gifts to those who haven't been attending church</li> <li>- meal support for those who are unable to attend due to illness</li> <li>- list of those that need transport to masses</li> <li>- Fr. &amp; PPC members to conduct initial visit if parishioner has stopped coming to church</li> </ul>
3. Welcome and Hospitality Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitality Ministry leaders to share about their ministry via mass announcements. E.g. Cafe ministry Nicole (9am mass) to announce about the purpose of the ministry, inform parishioners how they can get involved or support this ministry regularly, Welcome Ministry etc.</li> <li>• Introduce a buddy system - pair a new parishioner with an existing parishioner who can invite them to events and introduce them to others, or match families with similar aged children to build connections.</li> </ul>
4. Organise Regular Events/ Social Gatherings & Multicultural Events - Celebrate as a Church Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate our parishioners' milestones - ensuring we celebrate our older community.</li> <li>• Birthday masses - 1st Weekend of the month</li> <li>• Social &amp; Community building events. E.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parish Gala day - "Celebrate Us" - an event for parishioners to bring family and friends for fun, faith and fellowship.</li> <li>- More fun social gatherings - monthly, quarterly, or annual events such as trivia night, barn dance, themed nights.</li> <li>- Parish celebrations - BBQs, multicultural potluck evenings, Easter ball, Parish feast ball.</li> <li>- Spring fun games - to be held in church grounds, including free giveaways from local council and businesses.</li> <li>- Cultural events - Opportunities for cultural groups to showcase traditions, music, food, language, and attire to foster mutual respect and appreciation.</li> <li>- Talent show: Celebrate parishioner talents through food, games, performances, and creative displays.</li> <li>- Fitness and Wellness Activities - Zumba or dance groups: in the church hall to promote health and community bonding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fundraising - Market-style stalls - Invite local and parish-run businesses to showcase their offerings during events—supporting small business and fostering connection.</li> <li>• Annual fundraisers for charities: Organise more frequent charity events to support those in need and promote social justice.</li> <li>• Social gathering for school parents / young parents - playgroups, coffee groups for mothers, fathers or families.</li> <li>• Youth activities - E.g. youth coffee, activities for youth after mass, youth socials, etc.</li> <li>• Group volunteering opportunities and service projects within our Parish to engage parishioners in the wider community.</li> <li>• Create a multicultural prayer wall or mural where parishioners can contribute prayers, artwork or symbols representing our cultural heritage. The visual to serve as a reminder of the Parish's commitment to celebrating diversity and belonging.</li> </ul>
5. Wider community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking between Parishes to build community reach.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite people to create care packages for local shelters or organise a team to plant trees in the community as a social and environmental service project.</li> </ul>
6. Connect with Parishioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host monthly 'welcome Sundays' – set up a coffee and conversation hour after mass to welcome newcomers or arrange a brief "Meet the Parish" session where ministry leaders introduce themselves.</li> </ul>
7. Promote multicultural Involvement in Parish Ministries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively recruit leaders from different cultural communities to serve in parish ministries – ensures all voices and experiences are represented in Church leadership</li> <li>• Highlight contributions from various cultural groups to the life of the Parish bulletins and newsletters via interviews, cultural spotlights, announcements, or multicultural events.</li> </ul>

## 2027

<b>PASTORAL PRIORITY - 1</b>	<b>Evangelization and Outreach</b> To share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community and invite others to join us on our faith Journey.
<b>GOAL</b>	Increase participation in parish events and activities within the next 3 year.
<b>OBJECTIVES SUGGESTED</b>	Development of a social media strategy to promote events Host a Parish wide outreach event to invite non practicing Catholics and others to join our community.
<b>WHAT</b>	<b>HOW (ACTIONS)</b>
1. Share the Good News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the Good News of how the Lord has blessed us. Through faith testimonies of our parishioners.</li> </ul>
2. Multi-Cultural Liturgy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic multicultural masses inviting parishioners to participate in liturgy to reflect the diverse linguistic make-up of the parish.</li> </ul>

2028

<b>PASTORAL PRIORITY - 1</b>	<b>Evangelization and Outreach</b> To share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community and invite others to join us on our faith Journey.
<b>GOAL</b>	Increase participation in parish events and activities within the next 3 years.
<b>OBJECTIVES SUGGESTED</b>	Development of a social media strategy to promote events Host a Parish wide outreach event to invite non practicing Catholics and others to join our community.
<b>WHAT</b>	<b>HOW (ACTIONS)</b>
1. Share the Good News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share the good News of how the Lord has blessed us. Through faith testimonies of our parishioners.</li> </ul>
2. Multi-Cultural Liturgy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music ministry to incorporate hymns, songs, and instruments from different cultures during mass to reflect our cultural diversity.</li> </ul>

## Terms of Reference for Parish Councils and Finance Committees

### The 1983 Code of Canon Law provides that:

In all juridical matters, the Parish Priest acts in the person of the Parish, in accordance with the law. He is to ensure that the Parish goods are administered in accordance with Canons 1281 - 1299. [Canon 532]

In each Parish there is to be a Finance Committee to help the Parish Priest in the administration of the goods of the Parish, without prejudice to Canon 532. It is ruled by the universal law and by the norms laid down by the Diocesan Bishop, and it is composed of members of the faithful selected according to these norms. [Canon 537]

Finance Committees are mandatory in every Parish, as are Parish Pastoral Councils. Strong communication and co-operation between these two groups will be an effective means of combining the pastoral and financial aspects of the entire Parish. A member of the Parish Finance Committee should either (a) be a member of the Parish Council or (b) liaise closely with the Parish Council.

### The Finance Committee is primarily concerned with helping the Parish Priest or Administrator in fulfilling the Church's Mission in terms of:

**Resourcing:** To ensure that the Parish has the financial capacity both for the provision of assets and facilities (such as church, presbytery, hall etc.) and for the financial support for those involved in Pastoral works, i.e. The Parish Priest, his Staff, Parish pastoral assistants etc.

**Planning:** To plan, in a systematic way, both for the provision of this resourcing and its budgetary management.

**Accounting, Administering & Safeguarding:** To account for, administer and safeguard all Parish income, expenditure and assets.



## Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines 2024

The **Parish Pastoral Council** is not a body of representatives but a representative body. Its primary function is to set the vision and plan to make “the life and activity of the parish ever more closely conform to the gospel.”<sup>1</sup> The focus is on the pastoral aspect of the parish.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) consists of the Parish Priest and a team of parishioners chosen by the parish community. The Councillors work collaboratively <sup>2</sup> to build a vital Christian community in which parishioners’ spiritual growth is fostered and their baptismal calls to mission are discerned and supported. The purpose of the PPC is to enrich the quality of parish life and provide opportunities for parishioners to:

- proclaim the good news of God’s love throughout the world
- invite more people into the community of disciples
- encourage the whole community to grow in holiness
- transform the world until the justice, peace and love of God’s reign prevail.

The PPC is a consultative body convened by the Parish Priest, which:

- prayerfully discerns parish needs
- sets pastoral priorities
- empowers people to participate in the mission of Christ
- encourages and invites parishioners to take pastoral roles in the parish.

It is not intended to be a management team for the parish. It builds up the pastoral and spiritual vitality of the parish in a way that takes account of diocesan priorities.

*It will be the function of this council to investigate and consider matters relating to pastoral activity and to formulate practical conclusions regarding them.*<sup>3</sup>

Link to guidelines: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/PPC-guidelines-2024.pdf>