



Te Ahi Kaa o Mataūranga

'The Hearth Place of Learning'

A CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY GATHERED
AROUND THE WARMTH AND LIGHT OF HIM THAT GIFTS
ALL –

JESUS

What's inside?

What is community?

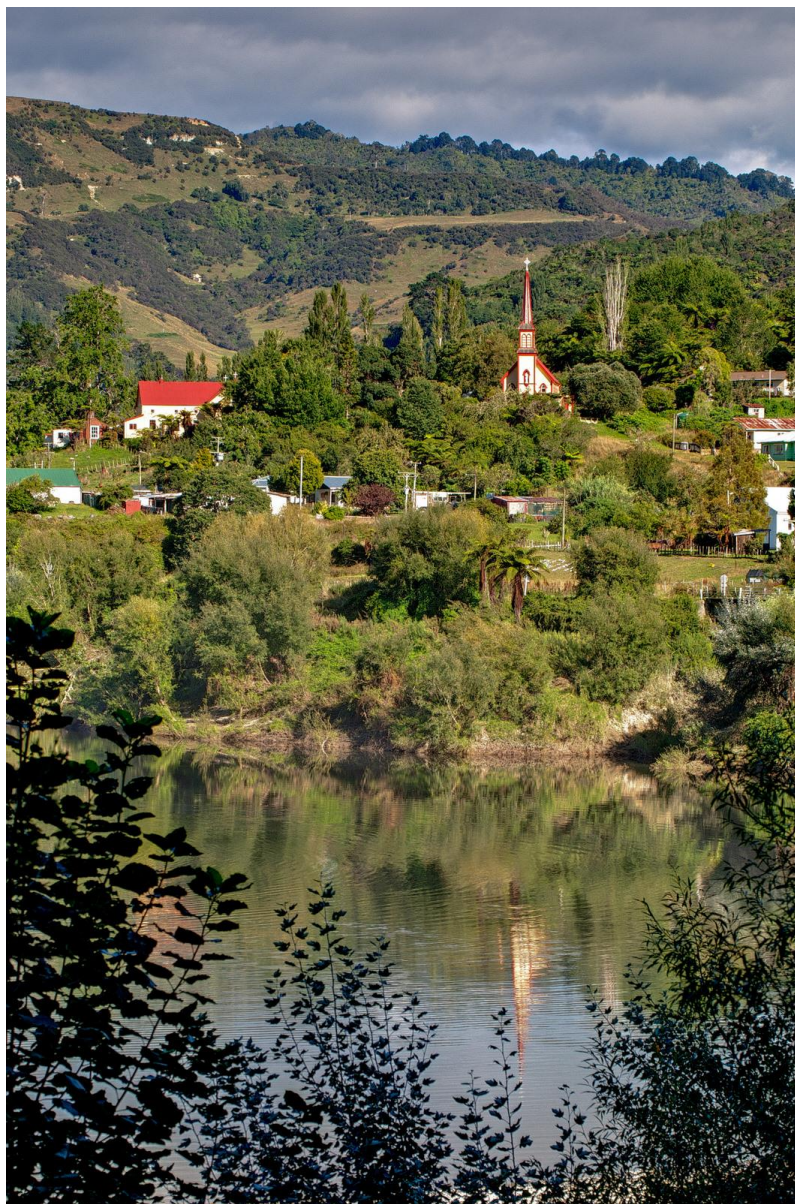
The Vision

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The Diocese of Palmerston North has a long tradition of Christian community living. Here is the community at Hiruharama (Jerusalem) on the Whanganui River where Mother Aubert and the Sisters of Compassion have ministered to the people of the area for over a century.

What is Catholic Community?

Catholic Community is:

A place that is founded on **PRAYER** - prayer that is individual and prayer that is in common. In the modern Catholic Church we tend to go apart into our private room and pray to our Father who we meet in that place. It is true that this is the heart of our Christian life, the place apart. But from the earliest of days, Christians have also gone together to the Temple to pray. We bring all to prayer, and all is founded in prayer and starts with prayer.

It is a place where people of all backgrounds are called together. It is **COMMUNITY**. There is neither Jew nor Greek, male or female, rich or poor, righteous or sinner; given precedence or favor, or excluded. The strongest sign of this is a common table and a simple common life.

It is a community of the **WORD AND EUCHARIST**; we find ourselves in the midst of the Church and her liturgy, her work of worship and praise. We are formed by the Scriptures and our being united in the one act of worship of the Lord.

It draws us forward in our **FORMATION**. The seeking after understanding and wisdom, the discussion with each other and formation of each other in the way of the Lord is central.

It is a community of **SERVICE TO THE POOR**. The hardest but truest test of the Christian community is how we respond to those in need. They will be attracted to this community, and actually each in this community has a need and a poverty that needs healing by the love and service of our brothers and sisters. This ministry is gift of self, time and possibilities, but it is also a deliberate service of welcome, hospitality, and outward service.



The Abbey of the Southern Star (A Cistercian Monastery) at Kopua in the Southern Hawkes Bay

The Vision

The overall vision is couched in living the command of Christ in Matt 28:19 – *to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. This is the mission of the Church – to make Jesus known and loved. For our local context, this means we are aiming to build vibrant faith communities. Our life purpose is bringing people to Christ as to be disciples like us – and disciples need a home! The kaupapa of living in this house of discipleship means that Te Ahi Kaa o Mataūranga is:

A House of Formation, of journey, growth study and discussion in which people find the direction of their call.

A House of Service, where community members give their gifts, time and energies to the wider community.

A House of Prayer, where the community members commit to growing and journeying with God.

A House of Hospitality, where young people find and connect with a community of common values and life. Where there is a warm welcome, regular hospitality and an open hearth.

Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before

There have over the years been a number of wonderful ministries that have taken life in this 'space'.

The Friary, as the Pastoral Centre, was first known, was a center of University Ministry, with Jim Keble, and others in the 1960 / 70s. James K Baxter was a visitor, many found hospitality and care.

The Pastoral Centre was a center of formation and life, with lecturers and retreats, meetings and conferences. A community grew around the warmth of hospitality of Tim Hannigan, Peter Cullinane, and Mrs. Hayden et al.

Manako was a great outreach, staffed by Dominicans, Brown Josephites and many lay workers over a period of years. Its life was sustained by regular prayer, community gatherings, Mass and events. It was also sustained by the regular involvement of other families, the Simmons, and their extended family in particular.

Houses in Broadway, including smaller flatting and community options with Leo Curry, John Kavanagh, Peter Fahy and Mary Betz.

A House of Discernment, Emmaus, existed in 2010 in Feilding with Sue Ryan involved.

Motto

'Where your own deepest desires intersect with the world's deep need is where you find the purpose of your life.'



YOU

Welcome to Te Ahi Kaa o Mataūranga, our community of Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service. We would be blessed to have you with us on our journey next year.

Community Expectations

We want you to get the most out of this year that you can. To enable this we ask that you join us in building:

A life of Prayer – We as a community will pray together daily. Mostly, this will involve a daily prayer at least 4 nights a week but may also include prayer around an evening meal time or other opportunities where we gather together.

We shall join in with our wider faith community by worshipping together at a weekly Mass. This will be at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. You will be invited to take part in a ministry at the parish too.

A House of Hospitality – We seek to be a place of openness and hospitality for all those who visit us. This means treating our guests as we would like to be treated.

Our wider community will be invited often to join us for prayer, meals, events and as part of our life together. We will be open to them, and assist them in finding warmth and light around our hearth place – Ahi Kaa.

A Year of Formation – We are all on a journey, in life and with God. For this year together, we shall seek to discover more deeply, our call for our lives, deeply rooted in understanding who we are, in our relationship with God.

We shall seek to assist each other in growing more deeply aware of who we are most called to be – in finding our 'true' north, where we are most in tune with Gods call for us.

We will take part in opportunities for formation and growth e.g. informal discussions, house meetings, retreats and leadership opportunities.

Further to this we do a formal aspect of formation with the study and completion of at least 4 Level 5 NZQA papers offered by Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College throughout the year.

A Commitment to Serve – We shall seek opportunities to serve those in our wider community who are on the margins and in need as Christ calls us to do.

We, together, shall commit to the gospel call to reach out and be Christ's hands and feet in the world. We expect that you will join us in this call by taking part in some active service (within the Tertiary and Young Adult or College Ministry, or Parish or wider community) of some sort throughout the year.



Practicalities

We require that you contribute to our communities' upkeep and maintenance. To do this we ask that you:

- Pay a weekly 'board' that will cover your rent, all bills, food supplies and internet access. This amount shall be set at between \$160 and \$180 a week. If there are any surplus requirements that you have, these shall be covered by you personally.
- Fulfill any duties and chores that are assigned to you. These shall be agreed upon during one of our community meetings early on in our year together.
- Make the most of the prayer, formation, service and hospitality opportunities presented to you throughout the year.
- Attend house meetings and prayer regularly.
- Assist with hospitality on Sunday nights at Te Ahi Kaa o Mataūranga and, if a student at Massey, assist with hospitality for Wednesday Mass if able.
- Attend retreats and formation experiences.
- Commit to 2 forms of service – one of which is to be a 6pm Mass ministry.



The Cross over Te Rau Aroha (the Diocesan Centre), the house where Te Ahi Kaa o Mataūranga resides at 25 Amesbury St (next door) and the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, where we will gather for Mass.