



## HEALING MINISTRY



### **Rationale**

At the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis says the Church is like “a field hospital” that must care for the sick, even when our actions incite envy and hatred in others.

“The sick hold a privileged role in the Church and in the priestly heart of all the faithful,” said Pope Francis. “They are not to be cast aside. On the contrary, they are to be cared for, to be looked after. They are the objects of Christian concern.”

Peter, like Jesus, is drawn to people suffering illness and infirmity, so he acts “in persona Christi”, allowing Christ to operate in his actions.

St Mark Parish holds this close to our mission and community prayer “ To promote a loving, caring, Christ-like community which accepts all people...”.

This is a parish character that we would like to establish in of Pakuranga and surrounding community

### **Objective of the Ministry**

To develop a team of Volunteers who will commit to serve members of the parish/ community who are sick or are not able to go to church and provide a caring and loving presence.

### **Team Composition**

Priests - To minister the Sacraments of Confession/Communion/Holy Anointing and provide pastoral care.

Communion for the sick Ministers – Bring Holy Communion to those who are not able to come to mass and spend time and have conversations and listen to their stories

Ministry of Presence – May accompany the priests or ministers of communion or may visit independently. They spend time to have a conversation with the elderly, listen to their stories.

### **Requirements**

A compassionate and listening heart; kindred spirit, patience, understanding, etc.

All Volunteers under this ministry are police vetted and registered with the Parish as ministers.