

Parish Update

From: Fr Martyn & Alistair and Damien (Church Wardens)

July 2006

Visit by the Bishop

Fr Martyn, Alistair, Damien and Lyndal met with Bishop Ron two weeks ago. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Bishop an update on progress of the parish and for the Bishop to impart his thoughts on the direction the parish should be taking in the future.

As reported by Fr Martyn in the Pew Bulletin, the Bishop was very impressed with the amount of activity in the parish over the last few months. He encouraged us to stay focused on the longer term goals of establishing a strong mission in the local community.

Parish Developments

Over the last couple of months the Parish Council has worked hard with Fr Martyn to improve the administration and infrastructure of the Parish. This has included painting and cleaning buildings, cutting down trees, cleaning parish offices and ordering parish records, establishing administration procedures and improving our parish web page. In addition we have decided to engage Ron Cameron to assist us to run our parish Planned Giving Program. As a result we have been able to get the parish to a position where we are able to concentrate on the more people focused elements of our parish renewal process.

We have prepared the rectory for rental thanks to Vic Nicholls and a number of parishioners completing a working bee to erect the fence and complete a general clean up of the grounds.

Parish Renewal

Over the last three months the Wardens have been working with Fr Martyn to develop a parish planning and renewal process. We have decided to use the parish planning framework called "Twelve keys to an effective church".

This planning process is designed to concentrate on six relational and six functional characteristics of the parish with the key focus being on relational matters. Research has clearly found parishes that have a strong focus on relational rather than functional matters have a more vibrant and growing community.

By using this process we plan to have developed a clear focus for the parish and define objectives our community would like to achieve.

Parish Teams

Parish council with Fr Martyn have decided it is important we do not try to do too many things at once. Keeping this in mind we have decided to implement a parish team structure. The parish teams listed below will have different functions to the old "Apostolate Committees". Our teams will have a designated leader, appointed by Fr Martyn and Wardens. The teams will have clear objectives and have a responsibility to work with the parish council to achieve these objectives.

The teams named below will be established over the next six - twelve months:

- Renewal team - lead by Fr Martyn

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- Marketing and Fundraising team – lead by Robyn Casey and Janelle Read
- Adult Education Team – lead by Fr Martyn
- Youth and Children Ministry Team Community (no leader at present)
- Building and Maintenance – lead by Vic Nicholls
- Liturgy team – lead by Fr Martyn
- Social Activities
- Administration Team – lead by Alistair Read and Lyndal Colbert

More information about the teams will be provided to the parish as team leaders are appointed and objectives of each team are defined.

Renewal Team

This will be the key team to help develop our Mission and Outreach and to discover fresh expressions of how we provide 'church' to those who have lost contact with the Christian faith. Once we have started to develop these fresh expressions, then the activities of all the other teams focus their work in implementing the new life and outreach of the parish.

New business opportunities

Janelle Read has been asked to establish a plan that will enable the parish to market the church of the Transfiguration to the boutique wedding market. We believe such a beautiful building should be used to improve the awareness of our parish, connect people to God through marriage and generate a healthy income at the same time.

As this plan is developed we will provide the parish with more information.

Get behind Parish Activities

As you can see there has been plenty of activity in the parish over the last few months. This is a great start and we need to keep moving forward. The next twelve months is an important period of time in the life of parish and we must succeed in growing our parish community.

As a parish and as individuals we should take much from the life Jesus lead. He had courage, was full of compassion and had complete faith in God. We too must strive to live life the way Jesus did.

You can assist us in this mission by considering any calls the team leaders make for assistance in their tasks. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to offer your unique talents and abilities to help us all establish the parish as a leader of faith in the community.

As always, we welcome your questions and comments. Please don't hesitate to talk to the wardens or council at any time about any issues or concerns you may have.