

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Jo Coonan – Secretary PPC

2020 – A Year of Challenge and New Beginnings

It been a year of challenge for our parish, Church, State, country and indeed the world given the turbulent nature of the Covid-19 pandemic. A year in which:

- ◆ The Glenelg parish was un-twinned with the Plympton Parish and Fr Denis Ssemuju, appointed as its administrator.
- ◆ Attendance at Masses, parish meetings and ministries were cancelled or disrupted due to Covid-19 lockdown
- ◆ Easter services live-streamed.
- ◆ Fr Anthony Kain stepped down at Easter, after 12 years of tireless and dedicated service as parish priest
- ◆ Fr John Herd became our parish priest on Easter Monday.

PPC meetings: Tracy Glover, was welcomed as Minute Secretary, at the February meeting. The March meeting was cancelled. The April and May meetings were held via Zoom and Covid-Safe face to face since then.

In 2020 the Parish Pastoral Council's attention focused on the following:

The Plenary Council 2020: National and Local Actions discerned at the December 2019 Parish Forum were tabled at the February meeting and published in the 8th March Bulletin. A recent look at the Local Actions revealed that we are acting on many of these. The Plenary Council is postponed to 2021.

Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines: This document was approved at the June meeting.

Readings: Reflected upon and discussed: *The People of God in the post-coronavirus Church*, published in April 2020 in *La Croix*, a pre-eminent Catholic daily publication; written by Justin Stanwix, challenged our thinking regarding Church post-COVID-19. Extracts from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, encourages us to "embark on a new chapter of evangelization, marked by this joy and pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come". A *New Instruction to Help Parishes Evangelise* developed by the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy; identifies implications for the role of the PPC and parishes.

Community Engagement Group: Margaret Speechley, Cecilia Quigley, Patricia Brougham and Henriette Greenfield met and looked at ways to engage the PPC and the wider parish community. The PPC learnt about:

- ◆ *Vinnies Sewing Group* who have for the past 51 years, been making garments for Vinnies to support people in need.
- ◆ *Men's Shed* established based at the Plympton Parish, is patronized by 25 men who enjoy fellowship while making a variety of items and undertaking various repairs.
- ◆ The Community Engagement Group also proposed:
- ◆ Parishioners introducing each other at the beginning of Mass
- ◆ Wearing name tags at Mass for those who wish to do so and
- ◆ Sold raffle tickets leading up to Christmas, proceeds to Glenelg Vinnies.

St Mary's Memorial School and Our Lady of Grace School: Continued to operate successfully and manage what has been an unprecedented school year due to Covid-19. OLOG proceeded with Phase 2 of their development and SMMS officially opened the St Thomas Aquinas Building in November. We thank school principals: Nat Izzo (SMMS) and Josette Charles (OLOG School), APRIMs Julie Grover and Debbie Scuteri and the staff of both schools for all they have done this year to remain focused on teaching and learning programs.

St Dominic's Centre: St Dominic's continued to flourish under, Coordinator, Henriette Greenfield, generous care of the patrons of St Dominic's supported by a dedicated team as well as Ron Knolder and Gary Lyons who offer the well patronized Sunday outings.

St Mary's Hall: Use of the Hall was interrupted due to Covid-19 but as restrictions were lifted, there was a pleasing increase in use.

Parish's Financial Position: We thank you for your on-going and generous support through the Stewardship Thanksgiving Program in what has been a financially challenging year. Balancing the Parish budget, will be a challenge due to a decline in the numbers attending Mass. We are grateful for the Federal Government's Jobkeeper program and to the Archdiocese foregoing co-responsibility payments during 2020. While some operational costs have declined, others have risen, such as the repair and maintenance of buildings.

Parish 5-year Strategic: The development of a Strategic Plan was put on hold to enable Fr John to familiarize himself with the parish and assess its needs. But the Finance Council is considering parish buildings and what is needed in the future.

With sadness we mourned the deaths of a number of parishioners, in particular, Paula Novak, Freda Dingwall, and June Janzso who gave extra-ordinary service in many and various ministries within our parish.

Thanks are due: We sincerely thank the following who through their ministry and giving have contributed so richly to the life of this parish: *Fr John Stuart-James for his generous and on-going priestly ministry. Araceli Hunt, Office Secretary/Administrator for maintaining parish operations throughout this turbulent year. We are indebted to Araceli for her efficient and dedicated work. Orla Wright, for all her devoted work and significant contribution to this parish for twelve years. Lay ministers associated with Sunday and weekday liturgies: Liturgy Council and Christmas planning groups; Musicians and Choirs, Readers, Special Ministers, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Flowers and Altar linen, the Sacramental Program, Baptismal Teams, Columbarium and Memorial Garden Teams. Finance Council members, acknowledging their work, Chaired by Emeritus Professor Kevin O'Brien, overseeing the Parish finances and managing the installation of air-conditioners at OLOV and maintenance and repair of parish buildings, particularly the painting OLOV Church completed during the Covid-19 lockdown.*

St Dominic's Centre, Henriette Greenfield, the St Dom's team, Ron, and Gary for all they do to bring joy to the lives of St Dom's patrons. Columbarium & St Mary's Hall Manager, Anne Kay and SMH Committee. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council, led by Steve Moss (Chair) and Henriette Greenfield (Deputy Chair) for all their work. Sincere thanks to retiring members: Steve Moss, stepping down as Chair and Tracy Glover as Minute Secretary due to their current commitments and Julie Grover, who leaves SMMS for Clare. Henriette Greenfield will be acting-Chair until elections next year.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your family a blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas, best wishes for 2021 and look forward in hope to the blessing and challenges of 2021.