



Parish Pastoral Plan 2013 - 2016

Vision

To be on earth the Heart of God.

Mission

Inspired by the Beloved disciple, Saint John the Apostle, and formed in “the spirituality of the heart” under the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, we the parishioners of St John’s will strive to be a community that is loving, just, inclusive and welcoming.

1. Building Community

Priority 1.1

Become a more welcoming and inclusive community.

Strategy: 1.1a

Maintain and further develop a range of social activities that embraces the cultural diversity of the parish and in doing so will invite and attract all parishioners to become involved in our community.

Strategy: 1.1b

Develop various communication strategies to welcome new parishioners.

Priority 1.2

Maintain and grow relationships by nurturing and supporting people on their faith journey and provide a sense of belonging.

Strategy: 1.2a

Revitalise the Neighbourhood Communities.

2. Prayer and Worship

Priority 2.1

Promote, support and resource existing prayer groups and foster the establishment of new groups.

Strategy: 2.1a

Further extend awareness and involvement in a variety of prayer experiences.

Priority 2.2

Develop more welcoming, inclusive and participatory celebrations.

Strategy: 2.2a

Encourage vibrant and engaging liturgies.

Strategy: 2.2b

Review the way in which the sacraments of Christian initiation are celebrated.

Strategy: 2.2c

To further develop our welcome before mass especially to visitors and new parishioners.

3. Pastoral Care and Outreach

Priority 3.1

Improve the recognition of parishioners needs, and encourage the whole parish to be involved in these needs.

Strategy: 3.1a

Review of the pastoral needs of the parish.

Priority 3.2

Improve co-ordination of pastoral care groups in the parish.

Strategy: 3.2a

Investigate the need of a paid pastoral worker.

4. Education and Evangelisation

Priority 4.1

Empower and commission lay people for more roles:

Strategy: 4.1a

Through a process of education and discernment assist parishioners to identify their gifts and charisms for ministry.

Strategy: 4.1b

Develop roles of lay leadership in liturgy. (E.G.: Liturgy of the word with communion).

Strategy: 4.1c

Parishioners to be involved as catechists in public schools.

Priority 4.2


Listen to the "signs of the times" by being open and responsive to the wider society.

Strategy: 4.2a

Reach out to the unchurched in our schools and our wider community.

Strategy: 4.2b

Explore what Evangelisation means for our parish.



What has been presented in this document is a summary of the Parish Pastoral Plan. A more detailed plan listing the various actions and timelines is available on request (please contact parish office).

Our Pastoral Plan is the outcome of the Parish Pastoral Assembly held at St John the Apostle in May 2013. Thus the Pastoral Plan carries the hopes and dreams of parishioners expressed in concrete and practical suggestions.

The Pastoral Plan is a means by which parishioners take “ownership” of their parish. The Pastoral Plan itself is the product of a process of consultation with parishioners. Periodically, parishioners will be invited to review and comment on the progress of the Pastoral Plan. Thus it will become a living document, constantly reviewed, updated and modified to the evolving needs of the parish.

The Pastoral Plan is not meant to list all the activities of the parish. Rather, it focuses on those areas of parish life that are in of need particular attention at this time. Its purpose is to suggest new initiatives or to suggest ways to reinvigorate existing ministries.

The Pastoral Plan is a valuable tool for the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). It maps out the areas of parish life needing attention. It enables the PPC to prioritize goals. Above all it presents the PPC with a clear vision of the way in which the parish hopes to move forward.

The Pastoral Plan contains many worthwhile ideas. However, it is neither prudent nor possible to attempt everything at once. For this reason the Parish Pastoral Council has suggested that, for the moment, we concentrate on two strategies: 1) “revitalizing the Neighbourhood Communities”, and 2) “review the way in which the sacraments of Christian initiation [RCIA, Infant Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion] are celebrated”. Once these two initiatives are well underway then we will turn our attention to other strategies outlined in the Plan.



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