

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2018-2021
ST MARY OF THE CROSS
MORDIALLOC & ASPENDALE

LATEST UPDATE – MARCH 2019



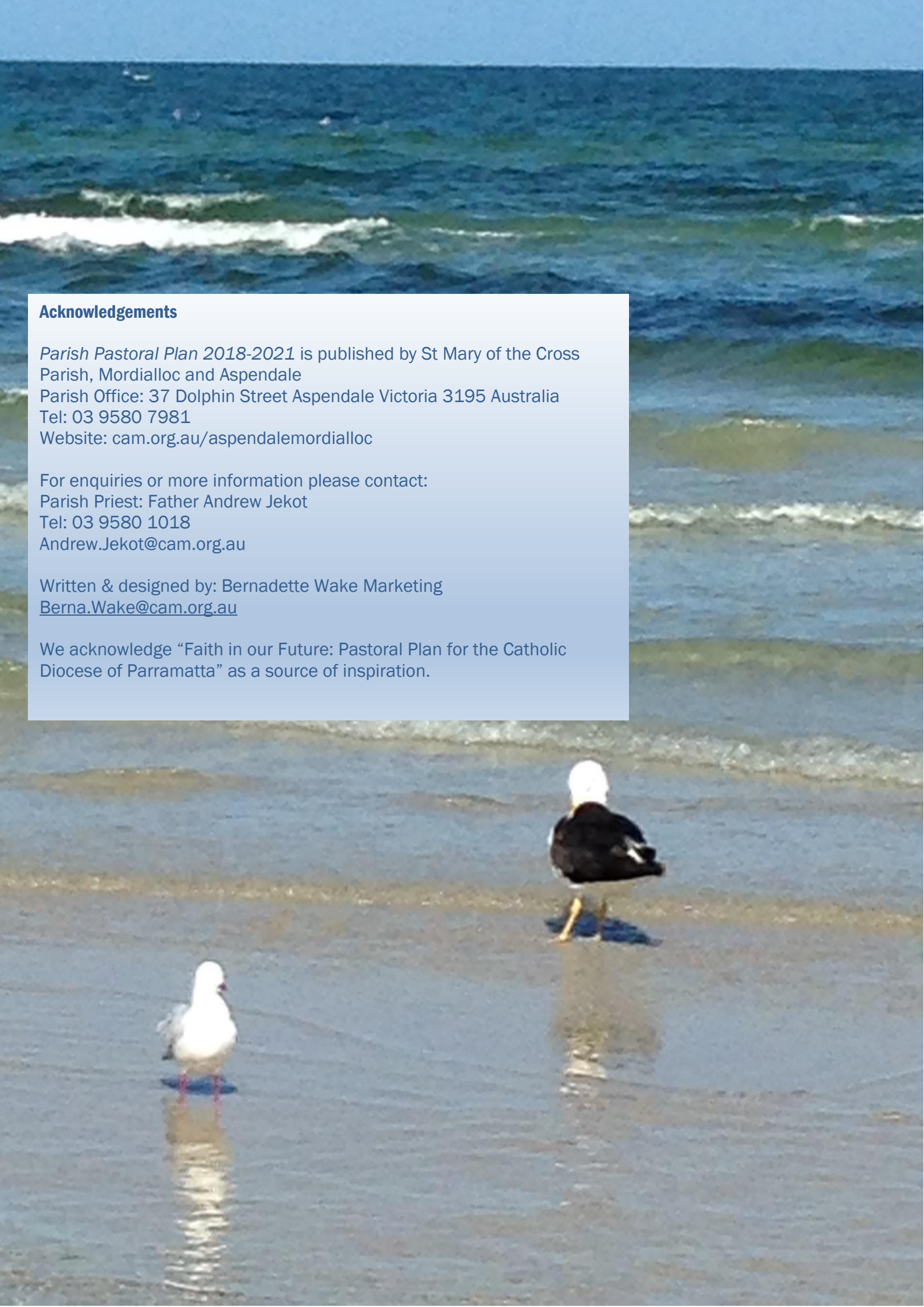
Acknowledgements

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We acknowledge “Faith in our Future: Pastoral Plan for the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta” as a source of inspiration.



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Foreword from Fr Andrew



In June 2018 we introduced our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2018 -2021. Building on the excellent work our parish has achieved to date, our Parish Pastoral Plan gives our parish a structured growth and development plan for the next three years.

I am delighted that many parishioners have already volunteered to be involved in many of the actions contained in our Plan. There are several teams up and running and achieving great results.

The progress of the teams are discussed at every Parish Pastoral Council meeting, where PPC members update on the various activities, seek input and decisions are taken.

The achievement of our Parish Pastoral Plan needs the understanding, support, energy and commitment of all parishioners. We all have unique gifts and talents and it is my hope that you will find an activity or ministry within the Parish Pastoral Plan that will help you feel more involved and allow you to truly live the Gospel by helping others.

We are still very keen to welcome more people to assist in the achievement of our Plan, so please do complete the feedback form inserted in this document, where you can indicate an activity you are interested in becoming involved in. I thank all who have already signed up and are enthusiastically involved. Together we can all be a part of the continued growth and development of our Parish.

With God, All Things are Possible!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Jekot". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Father Andrew Jekot
Parish Priest
St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale
March 2019

Background

Pastoral planning is a process of evaluation and forward thinking to help the community stay up to date with the changing circumstances of life and faith. It is essential for the ongoing life and vitality of the church.

It is the intention that this Plan will give our parish a structured growth and development path over the next four years, and then be updated for the next phase. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is the leadership team responsible for taking the Plan forward, with progress on Plan actions forming the basis for the PPC meeting agenda. More on this on page 22.

The Plan, when launched in May 2018, received very positive feedback from the PPC, the two School Education Board's, and representatives from several Parish Groups. Every parishioner and all school families were invited to provide feedback at the time and 162 individual responses were received. The Plan received overwhelming support and endorsement.

The Parish Pastoral Plan revolves around two goals from our Parish Vision:
strengthening our faith community and reaching out to those in need.

Underpinning these goals, are 6 pastoral priorities which are felt to be our areas of greatest need and potential and offer the opportunity to truly live our Parish Vision. From there we have developed several strategies under each pastoral priority and specific actions. The list of actions captures our current activities and introduces many new activities gathered through online research into the best practice of parishes both in Australia and overseas.

Progress against the Plan actions will be communicated to the Parish community in our Blessings magazine and a full report annually.

The vision for our Parish Pastoral Plan

Parish Vision Goals
Strengthen our Faith Community
Reach out to those in need

Parish Pastoral Plan Priorities

Support
Our Parish
Community

Connect
With
Youth

Treasure
Our
Seniors

Strengthen
Parish
Groups

Revitalize
Spirituality
& Liturgy

Evangelise

Strategies & Actions

Our Six Priority Areas

“The Parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.”

Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium 28

The six priorities chosen for our Parish Pastoral Plan represent our greatest need and potential. Each priority area will enable us to grow and share our faith.

Support our Parish Community

We aim to support our Parish community, both new and existing members, strengthening them in their love for and connection with Christ’s message.

Connect with Youth

We aim to support and invite our young adults and youth to connect with the Church and to lead the way enthusiastically to ensure its vibrant growth.

Treasure our Senior’s

We recognise and appreciate the senior members of our parish and warmly embrace their wisdom and contribution.

Strengthen our Parish Groups

We aim to structure our various Parish Groups so that they can be more connected and effective which will enhance their service as vital, contributing members of our wider community. We aim to be more pro-active in promoting the work of our Parish Groups and welcome new members.

The Parish Pastoral Council will become more visibly active in enriching the quality of parish life by taking on custodianship of the Parish Pastoral Plan.

Revitalize our Liturgy and Spirituality

We aim to expand opportunities for parishioners to improve their liturgical and spiritual life.

We aim to strengthen efforts to teach the faith to our children, young people and adults.

New Evangelisation

We also need to reach out to those who do not feel a strong connection to the Parish, helping them to re-discover the joy of Christian life. Welcoming people to our community events and our Masses.

How you can get involved?

The Parish Pastoral Plan is designed to enable our Parish to continue to develop, to nourish our faith community and to reach out to others.

As you read and learn more about our Plan and what it means for you and for the growth of our Parish, you will see many opportunities for you to get involved.

Here are some ways for you to consider:

- I can play an instrument & would like to help develop a contemporary music program
- I can be a reader/greeter/collector at some Masses
- I can offer my IT skills to train others
- I would like to be a Eucharistic Minister
- I can join, or offer my help to one of our Parish Groups
- I would like to become a Children's Liturgy instructor
- I would like to help with the formation of a Youth Group
- I would like to become a RCIA leader
- I would like to transport disabled people & the aged to Mass
- My family can serve as a buddy for new parishioners
- I would like to take the Eucharist to the housebound & sick
- I would like to help at a local Aged Care facility
- I would like to be part of the Parish Welcoming team

Please refer to the detailed action plans – Pages 8 to 18, to see where you would like to be involved.



Young Adults Group



Men's Group



Aged Care Visits



Justice Action Group

Please indicate your area of interest on the feedback sheet enclosed or contact Father Andrew to discuss your interest and involvement at either 9580 1018 or email at Andrew.Jekot@cam.org.au.

Priority One: Support our Parish Community

Support our Parish Community, both new and existing members, strengthening them in their love for and connection with Christ's message.

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
1.1 Ensure a welcoming environment for ALL. Review and develop welcome initiatives to foster a sense of belonging to our Parish.	1.1.1 Appoint a Welcome Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-ordinate a roster of parishioners/PPC to welcome parishioners at the entrance & exit of all Masses (involve current volunteers) ▪ Review church foyers & entrance – provide chairs, reflective music, ensure doors are open ▪ Review seating options for wheelchair/walking frame parishioners 	Welcome Team/Priority Team	March - April 2019	Feedback from Welcome Team once a year.
	1.1.2 Provide Welcome Packs for all newcomers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Booklet updated details of Mass times, Reconciliation, Church contacts, Parish Groups/meeting times • Copy of Blessings magazine • Parish registration form Welcome packs to be available at all Masses, Baptisms, Funerals, Youth Gatherings, RCIA Events, Christmas and Easter Masses, and for all new school families. Locate packs in prominent position in church foyers, e.g. "Welcome Stand"	Welcome Team/Priority Team	August 2019 (Feast Day activities)	No. of copies taken
	1.1.3 Plan and prepare for a "Bring a friend to Mass" weekend to introduce people to our pastors and liturgy.	Priority Team	Mid- year 2019	Numbers attending
	1.1.4 Develop and review "follow up" processes to keep newcomers connected to Parish life, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal contact or letter from Father Andrew or Welcome Team in days after registration • Roster of volunteer "welcomers" who could visit newcomer's homes with welcome packs and faith resources. • Parish Groups to invite newcomers to 'info sessions.' 	Parish Secretaries to pass on new Parishioner Registration details to Welcome Team	Ongoing	Keep a record of registration cards and visits completed
	1.1.5 Review signage at Church sites and carpark to ensure Mass, Reconciliation and Devotion times are clearly highlighted, so that newcomers can navigate easily.	Welcome Team	TBC	Parishioner Feedback

	1.1.6 Parish Pastoral Council to ensure welcome initiatives are re-energised in the period leading up to Christmas and Easter services e.g. promotion of Mass times, carol services, Reconciliation. Consider mailouts, letterbox drop, Blessings magazine, local newspaper/Billboards, digital platforms. Collaborate with neighbouring parishes.	Parish Pastoral Council	Ongoing	Increase in attendance
1.2 Strengthen the GodStart Program. Re-connect with families of baptised children.	1.2.1 Undertake a complete review of the Program to see how it can be re-energised and deliver on the goal to connect families with young children (0-5 age) to Parish life. Annual “blessing” Masses for all children & their families baptised in the current year.	Priority Team Priority Team	2020 December 2019	
1.3 Strengthen opportunities for school families to connect with parish life	1.3.1 Catholic families that have children in state schools to be invited to parish social events such as Pancake Tuesday, Easter egg painting, Christmas pageant and carols, Social Justice Week.	School RE Leader Catechists	2020	Increase in attendance
	1.3.2 Obtain and share information about retreats, programs, faith resources offered by the Archdiocese and affiliated groups. Include in Sunday Bulletin, Blessings magazine, Parish website.	Parish Secretaries, B. Wake	Ongoing	
1.4 Encourage our Parish Community to reach out to those in need	1.4.1 Improve communication & marketing for community events that allow families to live the message of Christ to help others e.g. Caritas Km’s for Compassion; Vinnies Appeal; Sacred Heart Mission etc	Priests, Parish Secretaries, B. Wake	Ongoing	
1.5 Ensure the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish	1.5.1 All volunteers must have a current Working with Children Check.	All	March 2019	
	Ensure parishioners undertake Child Safety Training sessions periodically.	Child Safety Team	2 nd half 2019	

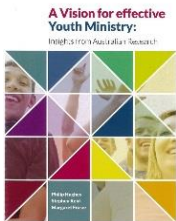
*“For I was a stranger
and you welcomed me”
(Matthew 25:35)*



Priority Two: Connect with Youth

Support and invite our young adults and youth to connect with the Church and to lead the way enthusiastically to ensure its vibrant growth.

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
2.1 Support our Parish Young Adults Group to allow them to drive youth engagement and evangelisation	2.1.1 Young Adults Group Leadership to develop their Vision and Framework outlining the steps to achieve a thriving Youth Ministry.	YAG Fr Justel	1Q 2019	
	2.1.2. Appoint a Team Leader to oversee, coordinate and strengthen parish outreach to youth in the parish and local secondary schools. YAG to share journey in RE Classes.	YAG Fr Justel	2020	YAG numbers increase
	2.1.3 All Young Adults Group members to read: 'Seriously important things you need to know' A guide for safe youth ministry in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (Sept 2017) http://www.cam.org.au	Young Adults Group	Done in 2018	
	2.1.4 Ensure Young Adults Group receive ongoing training in ministry, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theology and practice of Christian ministry Foundations of spiritual leadership and collaboration Formation in scripture, Catholic teaching, prayer, the discernment of gifts and vocations The theology and practice of evangelisation 	Fr Justel	Ongoing	Numbers attending
	2.1.5 Young Adults Group to connect with Archdiocesan Office for Youth which provides youth ministry leaders with an opportunity to receive important updates, network with other local youth leaders and be supported in their ministry.	Young Adults Group	Ongoing	
	2.1.6 Provide Young Adults Group Leadership with copies of "A Vision for effective Youth Ministry" (Hughes, Reid, Fraser 2015.)	Fr Justel	TBC	
2.2 Develop vibrant parish liturgies to attract young adult's participation	2.2.1 Hold a Youth Mass inviting ALL . The homily, liturgy and music specifically designed to engage and invoke participation.	Young Adults Group/ Fr Justel	August 2019	Increase in numbers attending
	2.2.2 Each parish Mass, aim to include youth in the liturgy.	Liturgy Group	Ongoing	Increase in youth attendance
	2.2.3 Aim to establish a Youth Musical Group for the celebration of Mass.	Young Adults Group	Now and ongoing	Participation



“Young people call us to renewal and expansive hope, for they represent new directions for humanity and open us up to the future, lest we cling to a nostalgia for structures and customs which are no longer life-giving in today’s world.”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 108



STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
2.3 Promote opportunities for young adult’s participation in parish ministries	<p>2.3.1 Young Adults Group membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor on the Parish Pastoral Council • Justice Action Group • Ministry to the aged, infirmed or disabled • Fundraising activities – Caritas, Catholic Mission, Vinnies 	Fr Andrew JAG/YAG and Parish Group Leaders. Priority Team to pursue.	Within 12 months	
2.4 Nurture and strengthen our young adults participation in World Youth Days and Christian youth Events	<p>2.4.1 Support fundraising initiatives that provide for participation of young adults in World Youth Day, national gatherings, retreats and pilgrimages. Consider an internship program to support World Youth Day attendance in exchange for volunteer work in the Parish e.g. social media/digital platforms design for our parish.</p>	Parish Groups and Parish Pastoral Council	Ongoing	Review internship in 2020
	<p>2.4.2 Utilise World Youth Day/The Year of Youth (2018 & beyond) themes and related materials as the basis for youth evangelisation in parish and schools.</p>	School RE Leader and Liturgy Group	2020	



Priority Three: Treasure our Seniors

We recognise and appreciate the senior members of our Parish and warmly embrace their wisdom and contribution.

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
3.1 Support our senior parishioners and local community seniors by creating a responsive community where the aged are not forgotten	3.1.1 Establish a database to understand senior's demographics in our parish community. Who is alone/abandoned? Establish how they would like to be supported?	Priority Team	Review Q2 2019	Establish effective criteria to facilitate information
	3.1.2 Maintain an active register of seniors requiring assistance in our community. Connect with those currently taking communion to the sick & housebound.	Priority Team	Review Q2 2019	Improvement in numbers assisted each year
	3.1.3 Consider a "Social Justice" Group who volunteer services to assist senior parishioners e.g. lawn mowing/garden maintenance; general home repairs; shopping/errands etc	Team to be appointed to recruit volunteers	2020	Number of people assisted
	3.1.4 Review and strengthen processes for outreach to aged and disabled Catholics, especially transport to mass and parish activities.	Team to prepare parishioner roster	2nd half 2019	Number of people assisted
	3.1.5 Provide opportunities that help our seniors to remain independent and age in place with training opportunities thereby keeping their dignity intact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and communicate resources available to seniors in the community Speakers on topics concerning ageing and spirituality; Joys and difficulties of ageing; Nutrition, socialization, health etc Work with local council, U3A etc	Priority Team	2020	Number of people assisted
	3.1.6 Develop volunteer programme that connects our Parish community with local aged care homes.	Contact made and plan under discussion with Mercy House Nixon	Q2 2019	Number of volunteer activities organised

<p>3.2 Develop structures and processes that encourage and facilitate the contributions of our older parishioners to share their knowledge and experience, who are often healthy, active and gifted.</p>	<p>3.2.1 Develop a volunteer programme for senior's keen to give back to the community e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make rosaries/knee rugs for the sick in hospitals, nursing homes • Ministry to the sick and housebound • Vinnies Care Initiatives • Computer Training <p>Giving a neighbour a ride to Mass or a doctor's appointment etc</p> <p>Invite senior parishioners to share their life lesson stories at structured parish talks held throughout the year.</p> <p>Consider a mentoring programme for seniors to provide wisdom to our youth.</p>	<p>Priority Team</p>	<p>1st Stage 'Smart device' training conducted October 2018. 2 further sessions planned for 2019.</p>	<p>Number of people assisted</p>
	<p>3.2.2 Review current Parish Groups and cast the net wider to invite participation from more seniors.</p> <p>Review whether additional seniors' groups that provide a source of community should be offered enabling them to find a group of peers to grow in faith and friendship e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise • Arts & Craft • Day trips • Musical entertainment • Computer assistance • Grieving program when partners pass away 	<p>Team to consider</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>Increase in numbers. Establishment of new groups.</p>



“...it is beautiful to see the encouragement that an elderly person is able to transmit to the young in search of the meaning of faith and life. It is truly the mission of grandparents, the vocation of the elderly. The words of the elderly hold something special for the young. And they know this. The words my grandmother wrote to me on the day of my priestly ordination I still carry with me now, in my breviary; I often read them, and this does me good.” Pope Francis March 11, 2015

Priority Four: Strengthen Parish Groups

Support and strengthen our Parish Groups to ensure their vitality, collaboration & contribution.

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
4.1 Clearly communicate the vision and purpose of our Parish Groups	4.1.1 Each Group to develop a one- page framework outlining the Groups Vision, Behaviours, Priorities and Actions.	B Wake has format	Q2 2019	Increase in parishioner knowledge and participation
4.2 Relaunch and revitalize Parish Groups	4.2.1 Assist Groups to ‘market’ their groups more effectively. Undertake research to understand what would help the Parish Groups to engage more participants. Develop strategies to advertise and promote the Parish Groups. Start information and recruitment drives through the Parish and associated school communities. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters and leaflets in the church and school foyers • Feature stories in Blessings magazine • Combining with other Parishes to strengthen group numbers 	Priority Team	Q2 2019	Increase in Parish Group participation/ membership
4.3 Review the need for a Parish Family Group that unites and responds to the needs of families	4.3.1 Establish a small team to scope out ideas to establish a Family Group for the combined Parishes – review successful Family Groups in neighbouring parishes.	Priority Team to consider	2020	
	4.3.2 Prepare a brief survey to establish expressions of interest from the Parish community and associated school communities for a Family Group. Agree size of the Group.	Priority Team to consider	2020	
	4.3.3 Appoint Parish Co-ordinator (s) to help launch the Family Group and offer ongoing support to Parish Group leaders.	TBC	TBC	
4.4 PPC to take ownership of the PPP	4.4.1 PPC members responsible for a PPP priority, to actively support the work, & progress at each PPC meeting.	PPC	Begun in 2018	Achievement of actions and goals
	4.4.3 Parish councillors to provide visible leadership – Define what this means?	PPC	2019	
4.5 Make clear the purpose and vision of the Parish Pastoral Council & its members	4.5.1 PPC Handbook provides a clear understanding of the role, function, accountability and operations of the Parish Pastoral Council. Make available in church foyers.	B. Wake Parish Secretaries	Jan 2018 ASAP	
	4.5.2 Blessings magazine to profile PPC members. Regular column summarising what was discussed and agreed at PPC meetings.	B. Wake	Begun Blessings 08	

Priority Five: Revitalize our liturgy and spirituality

Expand opportunities for parishioners to improve their liturgical and spiritual life. Strengthen efforts to teach the faith to our children, young people and adults.

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
5.1 Review ways to enhance Parish liturgies	<p>5.1.1 Liturgy Team to bring together appropriate parish team leaders, music and youth group leaders. Prepare, co-ordinate and review the Liturgy. Review technologies for worship aids. Propose to Father Andrew ideas for liturgies celebrating special occasions – Children’s sacraments; RCIA; Feast Days etc</p> <p>Careful planning for St Mary of the Cross, Feast Day 2019.</p>	<p>Liturgy Team (PPC Priority Team to make contact)</p> <p>Priority Team to co-ordinate with Liturgy Team</p>	<p>Monthly</p> <p>April-August 2019</p>	<p>No. of special liturgies.</p> <p>Head count at Masses</p> <p>Composition and number of members.</p>
5.2 Develop opportunities for prayer and reflection beyond the liturgy	5.2.1 Make contact with Adoration/Benediction/Lenten & Advent Groups to review opportunities to increase participation.	Priority Team	2019	Record of participation in various prayer groups.
	5.2.2 Review opening hours of the churches considering the desire for prayer during the day and early evening	Father Andrew & Priority Team	2019	
	5.2.3 Consider the establishment of a restful, meditative garden for prayer on church grounds. Launch at time of Parish Feast Day.	Priority Team	April – August 2019	
	5.2.4 Invite guest speakers to address parishioners. Coffee chats on spiritual and charitable topics e.g. Theology in the pub	Priority Team	TBC	Number of sessions p.a. Attendance
	5.2.5 Promote retreats, days of reflection e.g. Carmelite Centre Melbourne; Campion Centre of Ignation Spirituality. Invite participants to share their experiences in Blessings magazine.	Priority Team to inform editors of Blessings & Sunday Bulletin	2019	Attendance Frequency



STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
5.3 Strengthen efforts to teach faith to our children	5.3.1 Ensure Children’s Liturgy team is appropriately resourced and supported. NB There is a need for Children’s Liturgy to be made available at St Brigid’s at the 11am Sunday Mass (currently only offered at 9.30am Mass at St Louis’)	Priority Team to contact Children’s Liturgy Team and offer assistance.	Q2 2019	
	5.3.2 Encourage children to participate in the liturgy, especially at Year Level Masses, including, presentation of the gifts; participation in the music and singing; prayers for the community (prayers of the faithful); handing out the Sunday Bulletin; families as “welcomers” NB Liase with Support our Parish Community Team (Action 1.1.1)	Priority Team	TBC	Number of children involved
	5.3.3 Continue to challenge our thinking as to how to best celebrate the sacrament of First Eucharist. Invite Catholic children from the local state schools to participate. Promote flexibility with options of individual or small group celebration.	Priority Team	2nd half 2019	
5.4 Live the Gospel with a unifying cause	5.4.1 Develop a social justice cause that unifies our parish, particularly given our amalgamated parish of St Mary of the Cross. Contact JAG to develop.	Priority Team	2nd half 2019	



Priority Six: Evangelisation

Reach out to those who do not feel a strong connection to the Parish, helping them to re-discover the joy of Christian life.

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
6.1 To develop practices that create an inviting, vibrant and caring spiritual culture for all	6.1.1 Plan and implement a series of activities, ideas could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite inactive parishioners to a “Welcome Back Mass” • Establish a periodic “Come and See” Mass with music, liturgy and handouts (Welcome Pack?) specifically for non- and lapsed Catholics. • Advertise Christmas and Easter liturgies in local papers, posters in local businesses, community boards, webpage. • Easter and Christmas Masses include an invitation to more regular engagement with the Parish community e.g. Outdoor Mass & Picnic; JAG Picnic. • Hold an ‘enquiry evening’ where people who have questions can ask Fathers Andrew & Justel and others nominated by Father Andrew. 	Priority Team	Pre-Advent and pre-Lent. Start of the school year. Action 2019.	Increase in church attendance, particularly young families.
6.2 Promote the Catholic faith and parish life in the wider community	6.2.1 Commit to take part in ecumenical activities that will promote the unity of all Christians.	Priority Team	2019	
	6.2.2 Explore potential of digital media - Facebook, Twitter, Smart App to advertise Parish activities. (TBD)	Priority Team	2020	
	6.2.3 Parish website to reach out to new and current parishioners.	Berna	Sept 2018	
	6.2.4 Ensure Catechist Group is supported with funding and resources to provide religious education to local public schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the Parish Budget • Work with other parishes to bolster team numbers 	Priority Team to contact Catechist Group	2019	
	6.2.5 Promote RCIA opportunity using catechumens, candidates and sponsors to spread the word. Get their ideas as to how best to do this.	RCIA/Bern Carr	2019	



“Be enthusiastic witnesses of the new evangelization! Go to those who are suffering and those who are searching and give them the joy that Jesus wants to bestow. Bring it to your families, your schools and universities, and your workplaces and your friends, wherever you live. You will see how it is contagious. You will receive a hundredfold: the joy of salvation for yourselves, and the joy of seeing God’s mercy at work in the hearts of others. And when you go to meet the Lord

on that last day, you will hear him say: “Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master’s joy” (Mt 25:21).

Message from Pope Benedict XVI on the 27th World Youth Day

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOMES
6.3 Strengthen connections between our school communities and the Parish	6.3.1 Parish and schools continue to celebrate and share liturgical celebrations and consider ways to make them even bigger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacraments – Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation • Parish Feast Days • Advent & Easter • Class Masses • Grandparents Days 	Priority Team to contact School RE Leader/ Liturgy Team	2019	Greater participation
	6.3.2 Invite students from our Parish schools and other local secondary schools to participate as altar servers; youth group; liturgy group; aged care visits; catechists; music group. Provide a certificate of appreciation as an acknowledgement and to draw parents and families closer to the Parish.	Priority Team to contact School RE Leader/ Bern Carr	Ongoing	Greater participation
	6.3.3 Parish Group members/PPC and/or committed parents to represent the Parish community at School orientation days to welcome and inform new parents of Parish activities, programs and support available in the Parish.	Priority Team to consider (led by PPC Members)	TBC	
6.4 Educate on Evangelisation	6.4.1 Continue to feature articles on Evangelisation in Blessings magazine.	B. Wake	Ongoing	
6.5 Blessings Promotion	6.5.1 Improve parishioner awareness e.g. visual presentation of key stories at Mass notices, use of videos etc	Priority Team	2020	

Our Parish History

In 1911 the Aspendale and Mordialloc Parishes were part of the Parish of St Patrick's Mentone. In the same year St Brigid's Primary School and St Brigid's Church were built on the school site in Albert Street Mordialloc. The Parish of St Brigid's Mordialloc was formed in 1949, a parish that included both Mordialloc and Aspendale. In 1956 St Brigid's Mordialloc Church was built in Main Street Mordialloc.

In 1961, Parish Priest Father James English had the vision to establish a Catholic Primary School in Aspendale, on a site that was a mixture of swamp, farmland and a small sprinkling of houses. In 1965, St Louis de Montfort, the first Catholic Primary School in Aspendale opened its doors. 85 students enrolled in Grades Prep, 1 and 2. 1970 saw the St Louis' Presbytery and Church built at 17 Dolphin Street Aspendale.



St Brigid's Mordialloc



St Louis de Montfort's Aspendale

In 2000, the two parishes were partnered, and began to plan how the parishes could better coordinate pastoral care. In 2011, a Faith Development Team was formed across the two parishes, and joint committees were initiated in various areas of pastoral activity. In 2018, the pastoral council endorsed the proposal that the parishes be canonically amalgamated, and parishioners were consulted through the parish magazine, avenues for feedback, information at parish Masses, and a meeting for parishioners of both parishes in October 2018. Following this, the Parish Priest petitioned for the amalgamation of the two parishes into one under the new name of St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale.

The Curia (group of bishops and episcopal vicars) voted unanimously in support of the merge in November 2018.

The new parish came into existence on 12 March, 2019.

Key Demographics

Weekend Mass attendance
St Louis' 340, St Brigid's 320

Catholic Population
St Louis' 1226 families 2029 males, 1990 females
St Brigid's 773 families 1011 males, 1097 females

Source: 2016 Database

Our Parish Community - Aspendale

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ASPENDALE PARISH 2011

Total Population: 12,687
 Catholic Population: 4,316
 Catholics make up 34.0 per cent of the total population
 Median age of Catholics is 36 years
 Total Catholic families: 1,564
 218 Catholics live alone
 1,003 Catholics were born overseas
 69 Catholics do not speak English well
 133 Catholics need assistance with core activities
 942 Catholics have changed address since 2006

Parish information:	2006	2011
Catholic population	4,205	4,316
Catholics aged 0-14	27%	26%
Catholics aged 65+	9%	11%
Catholics born in NESCS	18%	17%
Catholics not proficient in English	1 %	2%
Catholic families	1,515	1,564
Catholics living alone	182	218
Catholic students attending		
Catholic schools	73%	73%
Catholics with university degree	17%	21%
Catholic males in labour force	73 %	74%
Catholic females in labour force	64%	65%
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling	85%	87%

Our Parish Community - Mordialloc

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR MORDIALLOC PARISH 2011

Total Population: 12,320
 Catholic Population: 3,677
 Catholics make up 29.8 per cent of the total population
 Median age of Catholics is 37 years
 Total Catholic families: 1,294
 343 Catholics live alone
 877 Catholics were born overseas
 64 Catholics do not speak English well
 160 Catholics need assistance with core activities
 1,342 Catholics have changed address since 2006

Parish information:	2006	2011
Catholic population	2,854	3,677
Catholics aged 0-14	23%	24%
Catholics aged 65+	12%	12%
Catholics born in NESCS	15%	17%
Catholics not proficient in English	2%	2%
Catholic families	983	1,294
Catholics living alone	334	343
Catholic students attending		
Catholic schools	77%	72%
Catholics with university degree	20%	24%
Catholic males in labour force	74%	77%
Catholic females in labour force	60 %	64%
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling	74%	75%

NESCS = Non- English- Speaking community. The term "Catholic" refers to all people who identified themselves as Catholics in the Census, not only those who have some active association with the Church.

This material was prepared by the Pastoral research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from census data obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Parish Pastoral Team

Parish Team
 Left to right
 Fr Andrew Jekot Parish Priest
 Fr Justel Callos Asst Priest
 Bern Carr Pastoral Associate



Susan Dornom Secretary
 (Mon/Thurs/Fri)
 Ann Fitzgerald Secretary
 (Tues/Wed)



Parish Pastoral Council 2019

Fr Andrew Jekot
 Fr Justel Callos
 Bernadette Carr
 Tom Lindeman

Berna Wake
 Gerard Wagstaff
 Odette Budge
 Lindy Wilson

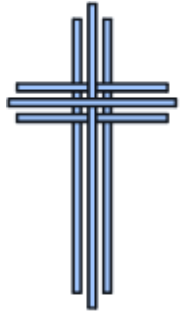


**Parish
 Pastoral
 Council 2019**

Michael Russo
 Judy Dickinson
 Debbie Poynton
 Ann Brennan

Peter Wilson
 Vanessa Fernandes
 Debra O'Shannessy

Putting our Parish Pastoral Plan into Action



Change can be inspiring for some and difficult for others. It will be essential if we are to achieve our goals that we are organised and united. This Plan is intended to build upon the good things that are taking place in our Parish, providing more structure and accountability as well as offering actions for renewal and fresh directions.

“Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: ‘We have always done it this way.’ I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in their respective communities.”
Pope Francis: Evangelii Gaudium 3

The Parish Pastoral Council is the leadership team responsible for progressing the Parish Pastoral Plan. Each Parish Councillor has been allocated one of the six Plan priority areas (see below). Working in teams, Parish Councillors will encourage and support those who have volunteered to take responsibility for specific Plan Actions.

Parish Councillors will represent those responsible bringing their updates and requests for assistance to each Parish Pastoral Council Meeting.

Our entire Parish community will be kept informed of the progress of our Parish Pastoral Plan actions via our Blessings magazine, school newsletters and our Parish website. Annually a full progress review will be made available.

Pastoral Plan Priority	Parish Councillor Responsibility
1. Support our Parish Community	Lindy Wilson and Debbie Poynton
2. Connect with Youth	Fr Justel and Berna Wake
3. Treasure our Seniors	Odette Budge and Ann Brennan
4. Strong Parish Groups	Michael Russo, Judy Dickinson, Gerard Wagstaff, Debra O’Shannessy
5. Liturgy and Spirituality	Tom Lindeman and Bernadette Carr
6. Evangelisation	Peter Wilson and Vanessa Fernandes



PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

Generous and merciful God our parish community of St Mary of the Cross pray that the future we plan will enable us to grow in loving intimacy and desire for you. May this love flow on to and through our parish communities.

May the Holy Spirit who is Wisdom guide our thoughts and responses, always respecting the opinions of others and accepting change where necessary.

Help us to recognise and hold with gratitude the talents you have given always being willing to share these gifts for you in service of others.

With grateful hearts we thank you for the many blessings you have given us.

We place this prayer before you in the name of Jesus who is the Christ forever and ever.

Amen.

