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**Parish Priest**



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Dear Parishioners,

#### Establishment of Parish Leadership Team

It has been some time since we commenced development of the Parish Pastoral Plan, almost two and a half years ago, through a consultation process that many of you generously participated in. Although progress has been slow at times, we have taken some very positive steps towards building a stronger and more welcoming parish community for everyone. The Seniors Social Group have organised a number of events over the last 12 months which have been strongly supported, while the Social Justice & Outreach Team have been very active in engaging and supporting some of the more isolated members of our parish community.

We commenced the Parish 'Faith Development Program' late last year with a parish-wide survey of people's needs and preferences, and commenced the roll out of targeted programs earlier this year. We have also commenced work on looking at how we 'Celebrate Our Faith' together, focusing initially on how we can enrich our celebration of Mass and First Communion as a community together. Although it is early days, we are confident that these and other programs will start to gain more traction through 2015.

Perhaps the most significant development in recent months has been the formation of the Parish Leadership Team, which was identified as a key requirement for success in the original plan. The Parish Leadership Team was seen as the vehicle to promote greater parishioner involvement in the leadership of the parish, by supporting the Parish Priest in ongoing vision and direction setting, and by assisting in the decision making process associated with the operation and development of our parish. The delivery of the Pastoral Plan programs will continue to be a key focus for the Leadership Team.

The Parish Leadership Team Charter defines the role and responsibilities of the group which include

- Collaborating with the Parish Priest in providing direction and oversight for all pastoral aspects of parish life;
- Establishing parish pastoral priorities with goals and objectives;
- Engaging parishioners in the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish; and,
- Ensuring the various ministries of the parish and their leaders are well supported.

In simple terms, the Parish Leadership Team is there to provide a parishioner perspective on relevant parish activities, in providing direction and support to the Parish Priest.

The Parish Leadership Team has eight members who were largely appointed due to their interest in, and support of, the original planning study and programs. The members of the Parish Leadership Team are

- Parish Priest – Fr Peter Ray
- Parish School Principal – Shane Byrne (Acting)
- Parish Community Representatives – Enza Hanley, Peter Waddington, Gerard Delaney, Angela Caputo, Greg Johnson and Kevin McCartney (Chairperson).

We expect that once the operation of the Parish Leadership Team is bedded down at St Vincent de Paul, there will be a more open process for the election of parish representatives to participate on the Team. We will continue to keep you informed of developments and initiatives in the Parish, and would invite you to share any feedback or comments you may have with members of the Leadership Team.

If you have any questions, or require any additional information, you can email the Pastoral Leadership Team at [pastoralteam.strathmore@cam.org.au](mailto:pastoralteam.strathmore@cam.org.au), otherwise leave a note at the presbytery and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin McCartney

Chairperson, Parish Leadership Team