

# Partnered Parish Plenary Facilitator Group Update

December 2020

The Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group has continued to meet and discuss its plans and actions in advancing the cause of implementing the local actions raised during Stages one and two of the plenary meetings held in the parishes.

Below are some outcomes worked on during the year:

## 1. Outreach to Secondary School Students

Work is currently being done in relation to Secondary Schools and the students, in order to facilitate ways in which parishes and schools can work more closely together in the areas of faith, liturgy and social justice. The hope is that students may be encouraged to continue this work into life after school. There is a School Leaders Liturgy event being planned for term 2 in 2021.

## 2. Gospel Reflections

Our group is engaged in an initiative with the combined liturgy team of Sacred Heart and St Thomas leading, that is consistent with some of the sentiments coming out of the Plenary discernment: greater involvement of the laity in liturgy. There is a pilot of gospel reflections using a simple and user friendly system called Faith Circles We gather via a conferencing method (Zoom) and discuss the next Sunday's Gospel, its meaning to us and how it applies to our daily lives. In 2021 this will be offered to all members of the three partnered parishes via a notice in the parish bulletin.

## 3. Governance

We have completed a document about Governance, Statement of Intent and Model of the way the Plenary Facilitators Group works, recognizing that it is absolutely essential to how the church operates at all levels, including the parishes. This document will be available on each Parish's website.

A submission on the subject of Church Governance has been sent to the Plenary Council for inclusion in submissions at the Assembly from this group.

## 4. Other Matters

Consistent with some responses from parishioners, parishes are looking at developing pastoral councils across St Thomas and Sacred Heart and this is supported by the Plenary Facilitators Group.

This group will continue working next year responding to recommendations coming from the Listening and Discernment Process and to follow the Plenary Process on a National Level.

**We wish you a Blessed Christmas and may God bless us all**

**The Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group**

**Sacred Heart, St Thomas, St Mary's**