

## PPC Report to Parishioners December 2023

The St Gregory the Great Parish Assembly was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> with about 45 parishioners present. Thank you to all who came along. At the gathering we presented a range of reports on things that are happening within the parish, and between St Gregory the Great and St Kevin's Parishes.

At the meeting we promised to distribute the contents of the Assembly in a report. This is that report.

This report essentially presents what was presented on the night, highlighting the major areas where things have been changing over the past twelve months.

### THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

**Members of the PPC in 2023** *Fr Charles Balnaves (Parish Priest, ex-officio); Michelle Verna (School principal, ex officio); Alfred Ablaza; Dot Haynes; Andrew Khalil; John Mabilia; Margaret O'Donnell; Brendan Pon; Paola Villanueva.*

The Parish Pastoral Council has not had a chair or secretary during 2023.

During the year, the Parish Pastoral Council adopted a set of accountabilities and responsibilities. A parish charter to surround these is yet to be finalised.

- Advisory and make decisions co-responsibly with the Parish Priest
- Governance and oversight of the direction
- May form sub-committees to perform its role
- Think-tank (vision level)
- Provides strategic guidance
- Awareness of and contribution to the developments of the broader Church
- Exploring possibilities of Parish collaboration

One of the implications of these accountabilities and responsibilities is the need for members to be available to put in effort beyond monthly meetings in order to gather the information needed to live up to the expectations.

PPC Meetings were held on Feb 7 (combined with St Kevin's); Mar 8; Jun 5; Jul 25 (combined with St Kevin's); Sep 5; Oct 3; Oct 25.

Additional Members are needed.

## **FINANCE GROUP IN 2023**

**Members of the Finance Group in 2023** are Fr Charles Balnaves (ex-officio), Mal de-Alwis, Karen De Souza, Margaret Kwan for well over a decade but now retired, and Ray Lewis (parish accountant).

The finance group met several times in 2023. There has not been a great demand on their time at present, though several important projects were given approval: Roof and other repairs to the church, installation of air-conditioning/removal of gas heating, hiring additional staff, re-working the church acoustics.

2024 will bring greater demands with the increased expenditure on staff that is planned (see later) and the hope to hold a Thanksgiving / Stewardship campaign.

The accountabilities and responsibilities of the Finance Group are:

- Advise and assist the Parish Priest (and Leadership Group)
- Governance on Financial Matters
- Provide strategic and tactical guidance
- Support for (significant) decision making at an operational level

A summary of the parish finances is given later.

Additional members are needed.

## **FR CHARLES' SUPPORT GROUP IN 2023**

*Members: Fr Charles Balnaves PP; from St Greg's: Alfred Ablaza and Margaret O'Donnell; and from St Kevin's: Tiziana D'Costa; Carmel Purdy.*

This group has been working with Fr Charles, meeting for 2-3 hours, approximately weekly since September 2022, to help develop an insight into how our parish may move forwards seeking to enliven ourselves in Christ and engage with the people of the broader community to introduce them to Christ.

This group worked to develop a Vision for our community of two parishes and consulted with the PPC and FG to arrive at the following vision and areas to address in 2023 and into 2024

## **OUR VISION**

To be a vibrant and vital community of two Catholic parishes that intentionally reaches out to bring people to Jesus Christ.

The five major focuses of work agreed in relation to achieving this vision are:

- Our Missionary call **Evangelisation- Alpha, Landings**
- Reinvigoration of **Parish Ministries**
- The Importance of **Eucharist**
- New Parish **Structure - ATTACHED**
- Implementing/advocating for broader change

Key features of developing this mission and the work areas needed to realise it are:

- The work is by both Support Group and PPCs of St Greg's and St Kevin's
- Consultation across the parishes has been paramount
- Recognising that we are Two Parishes/One Priest working together
- Co-responsibility (parish and parish bodies make decisions with the parish priest)

## **PARISH MINISTRIES**

FORUMS were held - Aug 2022 | Nov 2022 | Mar 2023 – these forums were designed to enable the parish ministries to develop ways of working beyond Covid effects and to imagine the links they have to being a people who seek to bring people to Jesus.

### **Feedback & Achievements**

- Both parishes work together where appropriate – (already happening with the Safeguarding Committee, Social Committee and our 3 Schools)
- Greater school involvement and integration of ministries (Multicultural day was a good example of this happening well)
- Investigate “Landings” (this begins in early 2024, to assess viability here).
- Establish a “Welcoming Group” (this has been done).
- A suite of social gatherings HAVE been held during 2023.

We need more contributors to ministries; we request your time and talent

## **NEW PARISH STRUCTURE** see ATTACHED

Not every circle on this diagram indicates a job/position: rather they are roles that are seen as crucial for the future. Various roles need an employed person (e.g. Lay Ecclesial Leader) because of the commitment needed. Other roles (Music ministry) can perhaps be filled by volunteers.

The implications of this new parish structure are:

- Employ an Operations Leader to work full time across the two parishes, and a Lay Ecclesial Leader for St Gregs. (Experience since the assembly suggests the Operations role needs to be split because of the wide scope, particularly the desire for a significant 'Communications' strategy.)
- Look to fill a Pastoral Worker role at St Greg's as the scope becomes clearer.
- Seek to locate / work out means to fill all the roles identified in the organisation chart.
- Work to develop the trusting working relationships that are essential between PPC/FC/Leadership Team/PP/Parishioners
- Feedback from the joint parish PPC and P&F Consultation
  - Positive comments were that it freed up the Parish Priest to do what he was ordained to do (Lead the parishes, provide pastoral care, preside for Eucharist and other Sacraments; and seek to evangelise). This structure will further enable us to concentrate on the mission of bringing people to Jesus. Yes, it is functional – but the mode of operation is via co-responsibility so it should not degenerate into silos.
  - Challenges noted were the cost and resources required and the need to be clear in communicating this message to parishioners and seeking help to implement.

## **ST GREGORY THE GREAT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **An integral part of the Parish**

- Integrated with Ministries – Altar servers, Social events
- Sacramental program partner
- School advisory council - partnership between school, parish and families
- Shared facilities

- Member of PPC/Safeguarding

Caterina spoke for the school and provided a broader picture of how the school operates as part of the parish. These few items capture a flavour of the richness of the interlinks.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

		<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>
<b>INCOME</b>	Thanksgiving	140,000	133,000	126,350	120,000
	Investment Interest	71,300	82,850	87,400	92,200
	Parish Levy	29,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Rental	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
	Other	19,600	20,200	20,800	21,400
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>283,900</b>	<b>290,050</b>	<b>288,550</b>	<b>287,600</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Archdiocesan Levy	28,000	28,850	29,700	30,600
	Insurance Premium	20,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Repairs/Maintenance	13,260	13,700	14,100	14,500
	Major Repairs	110,000	90,000	40,000	-
	Other payments	46,450	47,850	49,300	50,800
	Salaries and other payroll	85,390	88,000	90,625	93,300
	Additional Salaries	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>193,100</b>	<b>203,400</b>	<b>208,725</b>	<b>214,200</b>
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>		<b>90,800</b>	<b>82,800</b>	<b>67,425</b>	<b>62,200</b>

In addition to this income and expenditure report, there will be capital works totalling approximately \$110,000, \$90,000, \$40,000 over the coming few years. This is needed to ensure the church remains in good condition and functional

for our needs. It is worth noting that we have a total of just over \$1.5 million in reserves with which to move forwards on both the capital works and the hiring of staff. The reserves will not last long unless we can replenish them by having more active members of the parish who are willing to give generously.

### **We thank you for your ongoing generosity.**

In anticipation of the stewardship / thanksgiving campaign planned for 2024, we remind you to update your pledges, and your contact details.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024**

In light of the works discussed above the major focus areas of effort for 2024 across St Greg's parish will be:

- ▶ Revitalizing the Eucharist (lessons from the Liturgy conference) (we are already in a good situation (except perhaps for music outside the 10:30 am Mass) but we can grow even better
- ▶ Evangelisation – Our Missionary Call – Alpha – a pilot will start in February 2024
- ▶ Recruiting Operations Manager & Lay Ecclesial Leader ( Structure)
- ▶ Reshaping PPC to be more active and strategically focussed
- ▶ Thanksgiving campaign and looking for new sources of income
- ▶ New communications approaches
- ▶ Inviting further participation/engagement/contribution in/to Ministries
- ▶ Church upgrades/repairs - air-conditioning, roof, ....

If you feel you have a gift/talent to bring to bear to assist in any of these areas: talk with Fr Charles or Margaret O'Donnell or Alfred Ablaza or a member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

### **CONCLUSION:**

My thanks to everyone who helped develop and now present the contents of this report, and helped to give life to the parish by helping make all our gatherings and consultations work effectively.

And please, if there is the slightest hint of a call from the Holy Spirit to become involved: do come forward with suggestions and comments and your time and energy and love of Christ.

God bless, Fr Charles.