



PARA HILLS MODBURY CATHOLIC PARISH REVIEW

Preamble

We believe that the vision and work of the parish is not the job of the clergy and parish staff alone but is the shared joy and responsibility of the whole parish community. Our varied gifts and limitations mean that only together, with the help of God's transformative spirit, can we grow to reflect the light of Christ that is within all of us.

A Parish Review will be an ideal way for us to prepare for participation in the Archdiocesan Renewal and the Archdiocesan Visitation programs. It will also assist us as we prepare for the Australian Plenary Council 2020 which has as its focus, what we believe God is asking of us in Australia at this time. The Parish Review will be a time of reflection on all aspects of parish life, including looking at the parish mission and the roles and responsibilities of those working toward achievement of that mission. The review will be an honest and open look at what is working well together with considering means of improving in areas where we are less effective.

The work of the Parish Review is firmly founded in our belief in the Word of God. In John's gospel we are told: "A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:33-35) We believe therefore that we are called together, in mutuality, to love one another. In the writings of Paul, we are asked to reflect on our many and various gifts and to use those gifts to build each other up. Paul says to the Romans, "...you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." (Romans 1:12) We find in Paul's letter to the Ephesians this guidance: "Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32) Paul reminds us of our unique gifts and of how the Church needs and values them all. He says in 1 Corinthians, "There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:6-7)

As Christians, our desire to serve God and the people of God is a response to our baptismal covenant, grounded in the model of Christ, and because we know we are both the image of God and imperfect, we enter the process of this Parish Review believing that it will help us see our Parish as it is, while seeking to make it become as Christ would have it.

Background and Context

The Para Hills Modbury Catholic Parish came into being at the amalgamation of Holy Trinity Parish and John XXIII Catholic Community. The amalgamation began early in 2004 and was concluded at the end of 2004. In his final bulletin for that year, then Parish Priest, Fr Dean Marin wrote:

“This has been a big year for us, with the amalgamation of the new Para Hills/ Modbury Parish. I sincerely thank everyone for the good will, openness and generosity that you have shown in bringing this about. I'm aware of all the work, time and effort that so many have put in over the year.”

Throughout 2004 and 2005 the new identity of the parish was formed and work on bringing the two communities together as one has continued since then.

Parish Mission

Para Hills Modbury Catholic parish is a part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide. The parish serves the needs of the local Catholic community by guiding parishioners on their faith journey, providing pastoral support, including opportunities for regular participation in the celebration of the Eucharist, that they may become more keenly aware of God's great love for us.

Parish Vision

The Vision of our Parish community is to cultivate a welcoming, spiritual and vibrant people, centred on Christ, reaching out to all and having the courage and trust in God to embrace an ever changing future with hope and true commitment.

Parish Values

The following aspirational values are espoused in our Mission and Vision statements:

- Christ centred
- Trusting in God
- Welcoming
- Spiritual
- Vibrant
- Reaching out
- Courageous
- Embracing the future
- Hopeful

The Parish Review Team will ask us to keep the Parish Mission, Vision and Values at the forefront of our thinking as we assess the effectiveness of the various elements of parish life.

Aims of Review

In addition to assisting us in our active participation in the Renewal Program, the Parish Review will prepare us for the Diocesan Visitation Program. The dialogue that will take place during the Review will also help us as we clarify our answers to the Plenary Council 2020 planning question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?".

The parish specific goals of our Parish Review are to:

- clarify our objectives – spiritually and administratively – and to consider how best to make changes that will lead to more effectively achieving our shared goals.
- gain clarity about the gifts of the leadership group (Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate, Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council), individuals in the leadership group and parish staff members to ascertain areas for development.
- know the challenges, needs and opportunities that should be addressed.
- determine to what extent the parish is meeting the spiritual requirements (Liturgy, Worship, Prayer, Faith Formation etc.) of parishioners.
- gain agreement on priorities for specific goals and actions to assure and strengthen the ongoing financial position of the parish.

Scope

The Parish Review is a disciplined time of reflection on all aspects of parish life to consider how we are meeting the needs of parishioners while maintaining the necessary stewardship of parish resources to ensure sustainability. The Parish Review will incorporate an evaluation of:

The Spiritual Dimension

- Pastoral Ministry Team and their roles and responsibilities. Team includes:
 - Parish Priest
 - Pastoral Associate
 - RE Team
 - Sacramental Program
 - Children's Liturgy
 - RCIA Teams
- Liturgy including:
 - Liturgy Committee
 - Lay Ministries
 - Sacristans
 - Altar Servers
 - Choirs and Musicians
- Prayer Life / Parish Prayer Groups – including:
 - Divine Mercy
 - Legion of Mary
 - Junior Legion of Mary

The Administrative Dimension

- Parish Resources and Facilities – maintenance program, inventories etc.
- Parish Office - operations and functions
- Finances – financial record keeping and reporting
- Staff Members – evaluation of roles and responsibilities
- Parish Pastoral Council
- Parish Finance Council
- Fundraising Activities – including:
 - Parish Fundraising Committee
 - Trash & Treasure
 - Craft Market
- Administrative Volunteers

The Community Dimension

- Social Activities – including:
 - Bowling
 - Seniors Social Club
 - Craft Group
 - Beer, Wine & Port Group
- Social Concerns/ Outreach Activities – including:
 - Maliana
 - St Vincent de Paul Society)

What next?

When the review of the life of the parish has been completed, the Review Team and the Steering Committee will take their findings to the Parish Pastoral Council where, in consultation with the parish, action plans will be devised and implemented.