

The Parish of St Johns and St Peters Melton Mowbray

Parish Plan 2008/2009

Parish Priorities

Four areas of action for parish work were identified as important in our parish plan:

- Parish management
- Sacramental life
- Pastoral life
- Reaching out to the world

Within these priorities the PPC have been working on the areas listed below, identified via the previous parish plans and the annual parish meeting. These areas can be

- Parish Management improving PPC procedures and communication and developing a Parish Hall
- Sacramental
- Youth
- Reaching Out / Caring

Progress this year 2007/2008

1. Parish Management

The parish is a diverse multcentred parish. This brings us real benefits, but also challenges us. There are specific groups of people attached to the specific centres and sometimes they do not know each other, or know the community's shared journey and history. However there are a number of things that we do well to help manage the parish.

- A census was taken to make sure we know where are parishioners are, this has been kept up to date by the Parish Priest, Parish Sisters and Parish Secretary.
- Four times a year we share news and information through a parish magazine.
- There is a planned giving scheme to help manage the finances and budget
- The parish has a functioning PPC and Finance Committee

There are areas where work is needed.

1.1 Improve communication between PPC and parish

The PPC has developed a working terms of reference to give a better definition of the function of the PPC and has made meeting agendas more manageable by introducing reports before the meeting of items for discussion. The PPC continue to undertake a range of formation, including deanery collaboration.

This year the PPC have begun to look at the possibilities of updating the website and making more information available through this medium. New software has been purchased and updating will begin during 2008. The PPC now has a parish diary and will try to maintain an up to date list of events.

1.2 Parish Management – Building Maintenance.

The new Parish Centre rooms at St Peters Church are now complete. The new kitchen and toilets are well fitted out and answer many of the concerns that parishioners have raised in parish meetings. There are now proper facilities for baby changing and disabled toilets. There are two rooms, a large room, separate from the church available for both parish and hire and also for hire, a small meeting room (the former baptistry) situated off the church porch. Currently there is a small management committee who are beginning to draw together guidelines for hire and procedures for keeping the rooms in good order.

Alterations at St Johns for disabled access are currently on hold. St John's will need some interior decorating shortly.

The Management of the Parish buildings and functions is still a big task and many parishioners give their time generously to help ensure that the ground are tidy, churches are cleaned and that special occasions are recognised with the preparation of the church. However much of the work does fall to Fr Jim and there is a need to support him further, particularly in view of the ongoing maintenance.

2. Sacramental Life

The parish has active programmes for baptism, holy communion and reconciliation, confirmation and adult formation. Numbers are dropping in many of the programmes. This will be monitored but no specific actions are identified this year

3. Pastoral life

The Parish is a caring parish. There are many informal support mechanisms based around the school for younger families and around the individual churches, particularly for the older members around St. Johns. There are a number of other groups that help enrich the pastoral life of the community including:

- Silver Circle – for older people
- Scouts and Guides
- School PTA

Youth support and mission have been identified as a particular area of work. Particularly in relation to keeping the young people who disperse to different schools in touch with the parish and engaging the young people before and after confirmation programmes

3.1 Youth Club

Kristi Newton, the management committee and volunteers have worked hard to ensure that the youth club continues to engage young people. The club will have been running for 2 years in May and young people from years 7 to 9 meet weekly at the URC church and have made the youth club their own.

Key successes include:

- Equipping youth club and engaging young people with soft furnishings and decoration
- Gaining further funding
- Organising events including a sharing with other church youth clubs
- Building and maintaining a group of volunteers and individual inputs

The youth club continues to flourish and has made contact with the new diocesan support team, following the reorganisation of the service. The number of adult volunteers is slowly dwindling and this does lead to some concerns for the future.

3.2 Youth Mission

Initial contact has been made with the diocesan youth team to begin to build a more coherent approach to mission for older teenagers. The youth Café was a good initial programme, but was attended by only a small number of young people. This year the team are looking at ways of linking with confirmation and providing continuation following confirmation.

4. Reaching out to the world

The Assembly and on-going guidance from the Bishop has made us aware of our role for evangelisation. Sometimes this is an area that we as a catholic community feel ill at ease with. However the

Catholic community here in Melton has got some good examples of out reach, including:

- Membership of Churches together in Melton Mowbray
- SPUC
- CAFOD/Christian Aid
- Fair Trade
- Family Contact Centre
- Fair Trade Shop and other action on unfair trading regimes

Many individuals are also part of different groups that witness their faith as well. The parish annual meeting identified the need to reach out to older house bound members of the church and working closer with other churches on key issues, such as the child contact centre, new pregnancy advice service and fair trade

4.1 Visiting elderly and housebound in need.

A small group of eight visitors formed the Visiting Group in November 2006. A total of 40 elderly people were written to, to ascertain if they would like a regular visit. 12 people indicated they would indeed like a regular visit.

12 parishioners are now being regularly visited and the need is growing we would like more volunteers to expand this work. Processes are designed to ensure the visitors are supported and those with need for visiting are identified in future. This project has continued to be a success.

The parish sisters, together with some volunteers run the Silver Circle. Some of our older parishioners meet monthly. This is another strand which helps us to keep in touch with the elderly in our community. Again helpers are required for this important work, particularly for help with transport.

The PPC has also become aware of the need to support parishioners with specific needs and is now considering how this could be best addressed, either via a fund, or through a reformation of the SVP.

Actions for 2008/09

Objective: 1.1 Communication

Action to be taken	Success indicators	Start date	Target date	Responsible person	Resources required	Monitoring + Evaluation
Development of parish website – including newsletters and PPC information	Website in use	Autumn 2007	Summer 2008	Keith Harrison and Colette Burns	Software costs	
PPC nominations for vacant positions	Full PPC	January 2008	May 2008	PPC	time	
Better advertising of annual parish meeting to encourage more to come	Higher attendance	January 2008	May 2008	PPC	time	Feedback at meeting

Objective 1.2. Building management

Terms for hall hire	Terms in place	January 2008	Feb 2008	Martin Wadding	Time and perhaps resource to fit hall for purpose (to be defined by management group)	Evaluation over 6 months, feedback from parish and external groups
Alterations at St Johns		ongoing	tbc		Significant funding will be required. May not go forward.	
Continued maintenance of all parish buildings under review		ongoing		PPC		

Objective 2. Sacramental

No actions identified						
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Objective: 3.1 Continued support of youth club

Continued operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities planned • Young people's input into format and activities • Rotas of helpers • Ongoing checks • Health and safety • Training • Review 	ongoing		Youth Leader and Management Committee, Debbie Burke (child Protection) Support from diocese	Volunteer time Additional funding	Review over summer Continuing reports to PPC from management committee
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Objective 3.2 Mission to older teenagers						
Youth café continuation and links with pre and post confirmation encouraged	Post confirmation group continuing Start of pre confirmation group	Spring 2008 Autumn 2008		Gwenne Mamos, confirmation team and café team	Time Possible funding required tbc	Feedback from confirmation candidates on events during programme
Objective: 4.1 Maintain group of visitors for elderly and housebound and identify those in need of visiting						
Encourage more visitors	Numbers increasing Training given	ongoing		Pat Lee and reaching out group		Review annually Feedback from visitors and families of visitee
Identify those in need		ongoing		Fr Jim and Sisters		Link with Silver Circle
Objective: 4.2 scoping study for parish fund/ support organisation						
Identify how parish can support specific parishioner needs	Report on options	Spring 2008		PPC	Cash and other - tbc	