

The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe Communications and Website Editorial Policy (Revised 11/2013)

Introduction

This Policy was developed for the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe Website but applies to all Parish communications whether electronic or printed.

The Values of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe are Inclusiveness, Hospitality, Service and Mission. In support of these values the Parish is committed to reaching out to its community of people through its communication program, striving to unite all in celebrating the Eucharist and following Christ.

The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe Website was launched in 2008. The overarching purpose of that website was to highlight and promote Parish events and activities (religious and social), to foster the sense of a single Parish despite having three distinct communities, and to inform thought and encourage discussion on faith-related issues. The intent was to specifically produce a 'Catholic Parish Website', whilst at the same time and within that scope to afford an opportunity for expression of views.

The revised Website Editorial Policy retains the principles of the previous policy in promoting Parish events and activities, being a medium for strengthening the sense of a Parish community and affording an opportunity for expression of views within the framework of our Catholic Church/Parish. The revised policy incorporates the principles outlined in the "Social-Networking Protocol for the Catholic Church in Australia," A paper produced as an outcome of the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference (ACBC). Whilst its guidelines were oriented towards social-networking platforms, they apply to all public access Internet based media, including Catholic Websites and form the basis of this revised Editorial Policy. The guidelines recognise the "great opportunities and challenges brought by social networking and the Internet" and that "we are living through a period of vast cultural transformation".

In that context the guidelines highlight both that "this technology should be pursued only to the point to which it allows growth in faith and in communion with others", and that at the same time that such modes of communication 'allow people to express their views in a relatively un-moderated forum that reflect Church teaching and Christ-centred principles.'" These principles with the other associated ACBC guidelines therefore led to the following revised Policy, which effectively applies to all communications from the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe.

Revised Website Editorial Policy of Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe:

- i) To uphold and encourage the teachings of the Catholic Church;
- ii) To highlight and strongly promote the extensive range of Parish events and activities, religious and social;
- iii) To foster a strong sense of single Parish despite three communities, and
- iv) To share information appropriate to faith formation and discussion in relation to contemporary church issues.