

Parish Pastoral Council Report to Parish

Our PPC held its 1st meeting for the year on 29th January. Highlights of the meeting include:

Parish Redevelopment Project: Our project manager, Pat Kelly, reported on the progress of our Council Planning Permit. We have had a positive response from Banyule Council and we hope to receive our planning permit by the end of the month. Meanwhile our architects are working towards detailed drawings so that we can move ever closer towards calling for tenders for the project.

Visit of the Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University: Parishioners are strongly encouraged to come and hear Brother Peter Bray speak about life in Bethlehem and the ministry of the only Catholic University in Palestine on Sunday 23rd February, 6.00pm at the Cunningham Centre (opposite St. Bernadette's School) 53 Stanley St, Ivanhoe. Please RSVP to Parish Office as soon as possible.

Transitional Mass times: We need to start thinking about our Weekday & Sunday Mass arrangements during the period when the Mary Immaculate site will be closed for redevelopment. Start sharing your thoughts before we start serious consideration of our options.

St. Bernadette's Convent: Discussions are underway between our Parish, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Good Samaritan Inn regarding a joint project to better use the old convent at St. Bernadette's as a part of our outreach and mission to the wider community.

Parish Groups: Our various parish groups were invited to submit to the meeting their aspirations and goals for the coming year; and to point out anything that the PPC or parishioners could do to assist their group in achieving their aspirations and goals. We hope there will be more to report on this as the year progresses but one notable request/suggestion (from our Communications Group) was to ensure better communication and reporting of our PPC meetings. We hope to be much better at this in 2020 with regular reports in our weekly newsletter and on our website.

Climate Change Group: Our group will continue to challenge the parish community with the teaching of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* with its description of climate and environmental degradation, its causes, the consequent injustices to the poor and future generations and the call to action to heal the earth - to heal God's creation. On April 29th we will be holding a public seminar featuring Mark Delaney, author of 'Low Carbon and Loving It'. Mark's work is guided by his ethical and Christian perspective and he has attracted media attention for his views and his work as a faith-based activist.

Office Transition Committee: This committee has been planning for the move of our parish office to its temporary location at Mother of God Church during the redevelopment of the Mary Immaculate site and then the move back to its permanent home in our new parish centre once the redevelopment project is complete. Its brief includes facilities for temporary office, destination of all furniture, equipment etc, planning for future office administration, staffing, support and communication.

Safeguarding Committee: Over the past two months, we have been working on ensuring our compliance with our child safety obligations. This **requires** all parishioners who are members of parish leadership groups or who are involved in any parish ministry or rostered role at Mass, **to have** a Working with Children Check that is linked to the parish. It has been a huge task as we have 71 parishioners who fall into those categories - which is a great mark of parishioner participation in the life of our parish.

Our next PPC meeting is on 18th March.