

Parish Actions

Parishes are communities of the Christian faithful, empowered by a common baptism and gathered around the Word and Eucharist for the sake of the worship of God and discipleship in the world. Parishes are central to the life of our Diocese and serve as centres of sacramental encounter, prayer and catechesis, pastoral care, Christian outreach and many other activities which build up the life of the Church and take the Good News of Jesus into the wider community.

It is important that parishes review and renew their activities as well as plan for the future so they can move forward with confidence and purpose. The list of actions on the pages that follow represents the wisdom of our communities gathered through consultation, and that of our pastors, as well as research into the best practice of parishes both here in Australia and overseas.

Your parish may already be doing many of the good things outlined in the following pages. However, there will also be actions that your community can take up to grow and share its faith with greater vitality. While this list of actions is not exhaustive, it does offer each parish a starting point to review its present activities and to meet the challenges and opportunities for growth and mission in the years to come. These actions are also applicable to migrant chaplaincies in the Diocese.

Every member of our parishes and migrant communities can contribute to the mission of our Church by reading through these ideas and suggestions, discussing them and planning for action with their priests and leaders, parish pastoral councils, ministry groups and fellow parishioners. Implementation guides are included at the back of this Pastoral Plan which provide advice on how your parish or migrant community can begin to bring these various initiatives to life.

GOAL 1 SUPPORTING FAMILY LIFE

(Pastoral Priority)

Support our families as the cornerstone of our Church and society, strengthening them in their love and helping them live the Gospel

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
<p>1.1. Review and develop welcome ministries and initiatives to foster a sense of belonging to parish family</p>	<p>1.1.1 Appoint a parish welcome coordinator (volunteer) and ensure trained welcomers for each Mass, with a presence at church entrances and exits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - greet all parishioners on arrival - provide material related to the liturgy - offer information on parish life and events - gather details of identifiable newcomers
	<p>1.1.2 Provide projected or printed versions of the Order of Mass at all parish liturgies to encourage and support unity and active participation in worship, while also encouraging people to learn the Common of the Mass</p>
	<p>1.1.3 Assemble and periodically update parish ‘welcome packs’ or kits providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information related to the parish and parish staff - details of Mass times, Confession and regular devotions (perhaps on a fridge magnet) - parish prayer cards and other Catholic prayers - ministry group and pastoral care contact numbers - parish registration cards to encourage belonging - communication cards to call forth expressions of interest in ministry or parish groups <p>Welcome packs to be made available at key evangelising moments including parish Masses, sacramental programs, RCIA, youth gatherings and events, baptisms, marriages and funerals, Christmas and Easter Masses</p>
	<p>1.1.4 Develop strategies to identify newcomers to parish life and ministry groups and invite registration, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage welcomers and parishioners to look out for new faces at Masses and parish events, to introduce themselves and invite registration - occasional invitations at Mass from priests or parishioners, inviting registration by newcomers and to get to know their clergy and fellow parishioners - make available ‘new parishioner’ registration cards and boxes on occasions listed in 1.1.3 - all new names to be submitted to parish office and/or welcome coordinators
	<p>1.1.5 Develop and review on an ongoing basis ‘follow-up’ processes within the parish to keep newcomers connected to parish life. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - personal contact or letter from parish priest or welcome coordinator in days following registration (parish registration forms should ask whether the new parishioner would like a visit from one of the priests) and provision of welcome packs if not already received - a roster of welcomers to visit new parishioners in their homes with parish ‘welcome packs’ and other information and resources for faith - periodic letters from parish group leaders inviting the involvement of newcomers in ministries of the parish (e.g. as catechists) and in parish groups
	<p>1.1.6 Provide welcome initiatives after parish Masses to ensure newcomers and others experience hospitality throughout the length of their visit (e.g. tea and coffee)</p>
	<p>1.1.7 Develop and host outreach events within the parish to connect newcomers with one another and established parishioners. This could include a monthly or quarterly ‘Newcomer Sunday Gathering’ or ‘welcome coffee hour’ following Mass (facilitated by welcome coordinator or parish hospitality team) or parish BBQ to foster integration and ongoing participation in parish life</p>
	<p>1.1.8 Parish welcome material, parish registration forms, and accurate parish information to be available online via a parish website, parish social media page or similar, with maintenance and periodic review of content by a parish team member or nominated parishioner</p>
	<p>1.1.9 Mass, Confession and devotional times to be made prominent on parish bulletins, with these same details made visible on parish noticeboards and/or church signs</p>



“The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children”

– Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium* 11

1.1.10 Review and ensure adequate and clear signage throughout the parish plant, to allow visitors and newcomers in particular to find their way to church buildings, parish halls, carparking, and amenities with ease

1.1.11 Review and strengthen parish hospitality to aged Catholics, especially the provision of transport services for the aged, to and from liturgies and events in parish and diocesan life

1.1.12 Review parish activities and facilities to ensure access, welcome and resources for the disabled and those with special needs as integral members of our parish communities, for example:

- clear signage within and around churches and parish buildings
- the accessibility of parish offices, sanctuaries, halls and meeting rooms
- the availability of hearing loops within the church
- the size of written fonts used in the church, whether in projected or hardcopy material, to cater for the vision impaired
- opportunities for ministry training and formation to enable full participation of the disabled in parish life

1.1.13 Review opening hours of the parish church taking into account the desire for prayer during the day and early evening (this may involve a parish review of security measures to enable longer hours of prayer within the life of the community)

1.1.14 Parish teams together with welcome coordinators and teams to ensure welcome efforts and initiatives are re-energised in weeks leading up to Easter and Christmas for all those who return to church at these times (e.g. promotion of times of Masses, Confession and carol events through schools, local press, letter box drops and mailouts). These initiatives can be undertaken in collaboration with neighbouring parishes, making known all options available during these seasons

1.2 Initiate and strengthen parish groups that unite and respond to the needs of families

1.2.1 Each parish to nominate a family group coordinator, pastoral associate or other to liaise with the newly established Family and Life Office within the Diocese to deliver faith and prayer resources, as well as family, marriage and pro-life materials to our parish families

1.2.2 Parish teams and family group coordinators to ensure each parish offers (or collaborates with another parish to provide) access to and promotes:

- an active and regular family group
- a women’s or mothers’ group
- a men’s or fathers’ group

for the social and spiritual nourishment of its parishioners. The needs of single adults also to be reviewed

1.2.3 Each parish regularly to review the goals, activities, levels of participation and the diversity of members in all parish groups and consider strategies for increased promotion and membership drives through the parish and associated school communities (e.g. a two week information or recruitment drive targeted at new or recently arrived families in local Catholic schools)

1.2.4 Each parish, with their family group coordinator and school RECs, to develop a ministry team for specific outreach to families within associated school communities, to invite participation in parish-based family groups as well as deliver faith and life resources provided by the new Family and Life Office to these families

1.2.5 Ensure the parish community offers (or collaborates with another to provide) a parish ‘parent and toddler’ or early years group specifically for parishioners with children under school age, facilitating the mutual support of new parents and strengthening a sense of Church belonging and support

1.2.6 The family group coordinator and sacramental coordinator to work together to initiate and coordinate ongoing gatherings and reunions of parents of the newly baptised (e.g. annually for all those baptised in the previous year). Consider also personalised cards, including a prayer bookmark and saint’s medal, on baptismal anniversaries

1.3 Develop opportunities for parish and school families to connect faith with life	1.3.1 Each parish website or social media page to make available links to family and faith resources as provided by the Family and Life Office, and promote these resources in parish and school bulletins, family groups, as well as announcements at weekend Masses
	1.3.2 Each parish to host social events, in collaboration with local Catholic schools, to bring families together in the context of faith (e.g. Mothers' and Fathers' Day breakfasts and momentos, Shrove Tuesday pancake mornings, Easter egg painting events, parish Christmas carols and the like). Catholic families that have children in State schools to be included
	1.3.3 Parish teams to assemble or make available resources for families to pray together. These can include parish 'prayer boxes' containing flameless candles, a rosary, ribbon and cloth for prayer spaces in the home, children's bibles, booklets of prayer including graces for meals, prayers for parents and for children, gratitude journals for children, and resources to promote Sundays as family time and 'the Day of the Lord' (support available from the Family and Life Office)
	1.3.4 Parishes to organise school holiday socials for parish families, including picnics with supervision by parents
	1.3.5 Parishes to share information about family retreats and programs offered by religious communities, ecclesial movements and spirituality centres in the Diocese (supported by the Family and Life Office and Institute for Mission)
1.4 Encourage parents and families to witness to faith outside the parish	1.4.1 Parishes to promote community events in which parish families can express their faith within the wider community (e.g. Relay for Life events, local sporting events and competitions, Clean Up Australia days, the St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Sleepout, local fundraising activities, appeals for Catholic Mission, Caritas and other local and overseas missions)
	1.4.2 Promote pilgrimages and faith-based events within and beyond the Diocese that may be of interest to parish families (in parish bulletins and on noticeboards)

GOAL 2
(Pastoral Priority)

CONNECTING BETTER WITH THE YOUNG

Invite and support youth and young adults to grow in holiness and to become leading participants in the renewal of society and the Church by living their faith with commitment and enthusiasm

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
2.1 Establish and build up parish youth leadership, to drive youth engagement and evangelisation	2.1.1 Each parish formally to appoint a youth minister to oversee, coordinate and strengthen parish outreach to youth in the parish and associated schools, or collaborate with another parish to share such a youth minister, paid or volunteer
	2.1.2 Parish teams to ensure parish youth leaders or workers receive ongoing formation in ministry, either within the parish, by Catholic Youth Parramatta and/or the Institute for Mission in the following areas: - the theology and practice of Christian ministry (with a special focus on youth) - foundations of spiritual leadership and collaboration - principles for longevity and wellbeing in ministry, including time management - formation in Scripture, Catholic teaching, prayer, the discernment of gifts and vocations - the theology and practice of evangelisation
	2.1.3 Parish youth leaders or workers to receive an official orientation by Catholic Youth Parramatta on commencement, including a briefing on the national vision for youth ministry, Anointed and Sent, and on support available, formation opportunities, and professional standards in ministry
2.2 Establish and strengthen parish groups for youth and young adults	2.2.1 Ensure the parish offers (or collaborates with another to provide) access to a youth group or program for each of the following clusters: - upper primary school children (years 5-6) - lower secondary school students (years 7-9) - senior secondary school students (years 10-12) - young adults beyond school age
	2.2.2 Provide within the parish (or in collaboration with another) an annual youth retreat for local Catholic youth, promoting it in the parish and associated schools in liaison with RECs



“The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the *civilisation of love*”

– John Paul II, *Address at World Youth Day, Toronto 2002*

<p>2.3 Develop vibrant parish liturgies to foster the participation of young people in worship and liturgical ministry</p>	<p>2.3.1 The parish team, a nominated parish youth minister and/or liturgical committee to consult youth and young adults within the parish to identify needs and desires in the celebration of liturgy and develop appropriate responses, with input from the Office for Worship</p>
	<p>2.3.2 At least one weekend Mass per month (and ideally one each weekend) to extend special welcome to youth and young adults, with homilies, liturgical music and ministries specifically directed toward youth engagement and participation</p>
	<p>2.3.3 Each parish Mass to seek to include youth or young adults in liturgical ministry whenever possible, through the invitation and training of young people for these ministries by the Office for Worship and Institute for Mission</p>
	<p>2.3.4 Each parish team, through their youth minister or liturgical committee, to aim to develop and grow a team of young liturgical musicians for the celebration of Masses extending special welcome to youth as well as for music ministry at parish youth retreats or events</p>
	<p>2.3.5 Youth and young adults in the parish to receive formation in the theology of the Eucharist and the implications of communion for discipleship, either through parish-based formation sessions or through opportunities provided by Catholic Youth Parramatta and/or the Institute for Mission</p>
<p>2.4 Nurture and strengthen parish youth participation in World Youth Days, and national, diocesan and deanery Catholic youth events</p>	<p>2.4.1 Each parish to establish, develop and review strategies for invitation, fundraising and formation opportunities toward the participation of their youth in World Youth Days, related pilgrimages and national youth gatherings</p>
	<p>2.4.2 Each parish to establish a World Youth Day internship program or similar in the years between events, supporting youth participation in World Youth Days in exchange for volunteer service hours within suitable parish ministries (support available from Catholic Youth Parramatta)</p>
	<p>2.4.3 Parish teams and youth ministers to use World Youth Day themes and related material as the basis of youth evangelisation and catechesis in parish and associated school communities</p>
	<p>2.4.4 Each parish to develop strategies for the engagement of youth on return from World Youth Days, to foster their ongoing participation and contribution to the life of the parish (support available from Catholic Youth Parramatta)</p>
	<p>2.4.5 Each parish to promote youth involvement in deanery and diocesan youth events (e.g. Breakfast with the Bishop, Theology on Tap, Palm Sunday celebrations), enabling youth to experience the wider young Church and return to parishes with new ideas and energy</p>
<p>2.5 Explore and promote opportunities for youth participation in initiatives of social justice, public advocacy and other parish ministries</p>	<p>2.5.1 Assess opportunities for young people in the parish to be involved in public advocacy and social justice initiatives, as well as other parish ministries, strengthening promotion and participation in actions of faith. Opportunities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parish youth membership and participation in the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society or the CCD as catechists - ministry by youth to the aged, infirm or disabled within the parish - fundraising initiatives, including appeals for Catholic Mission, Caritas and other local and overseas missions - opportunities for public advocacy on issues of marriage, life or family as promoted by Catholic Youth Parramatta and the Family and Life Office - participation in conferences or activities around the annual Social Justice Statement of the Australian Bishops

GOAL 3
(Pastoral Priority)

BUILDING UPON OUR ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Celebrate, support and harmonise the diverse migrant communities in our midst, respond to their spiritual and social needs, as well as extend welcome and hospitality to newcomers to our Diocese

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
3.1 Review and assess the ethnic composition, needs and resources of the parish	3.1.1 Parish teams and parish pastoral councils to identify major ethnic groups within the parish with the support of demographic information supplied by the Pastoral Planning Office
	3.1.2 Parish pastoral councils to consult leaders of prominent ethnic communities in the parish and any affiliated migrant chaplaincies to identify gifts and needs to which the parish can better respond (e.g. invite the newly arrived to share their family and cultural experience at parish pastoral council meetings)
	3.1.3 Parish teams and parish pastoral councils to familiarise themselves with migrant chaplaincies and CatholicCare services available in the Diocese to support the full participation, wellbeing and pastoral care of all members of the community
	3.1.4 Each parish to review and develop parish initiatives to extend hospitality to newly arrived migrants, refugees and international students in their midst. These could include: - welcome packs in the languages of major groups of newcomers (support available from the Pastoral Planning Office) - parish volunteers to provide the newly arrived with information about local transport services, banking, housing, and a general orientation of the area - the development of a local list of social support and referral services available for migrants in the Diocese to meet their specific settlement or broader social needs (with the support of CatholicCare Social Services)
	3.1.5 Each parish, with the advice of migrant chaplaincies, to engage parishioners who may be able to assist in translation and/or the integration of migrants and refugees into community life, whether that be in the school, parish or in the wider community
	3.1.6 Each parish to partner with neighbouring parishes to consider how they can work together collaboratively in response to the gifts and needs of migrant communities in their region
3.2 Strengthen the recognition and celebration of migrant communities in parish life	3.2.1 Liturgies, pastoral ministries, and communications in the parish to take into account prominent non-English languages spoken in the parish community, if any
	3.2.2 Inaugurate or further promote the parish celebration of feast days significant to migrant communities, recalling the faithful witness of all nations
	3.2.3 Develop an annual multicultural or international Mass in the parish, encouraging the sharing of traditions and different languages in liturgy followed by a light supper or similar (e.g. on Pentecost Sunday)
	3.2.4 Organise social events outside of liturgy, including food fiestas, concerts and dances that can bring together the diversity of parishioners in the unity of a shared faith and community life
3.3. Promote the integration of migrant communities in the life of the parish	3.3.1 Include the concerns and needs of foreign nations and ethnic communities in the ‘prayers of the faithful’, especially those events and issues which touch the lives of parishioners and their families abroad
	3.3.2 Develop ways in which the cultural and faith traditions of migrant families can enrich the parish community and its life (e.g. through contributions from their culture to the planning and celebration of parish liturgies, including forms of music and prayer)
	3.3.3 Encourage and work towards a diversity of parish pastoral council members and leaders and members of parish groups and ministries to reflect the diverse membership of the parish community

“In the diversity of peoples who experience the gift of God, each in accordance with its own culture, the Church expresses her genuine catholicity and shows forth the ‘beauty of her varied face’”

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 116



GOAL 4 GROWING AND SUPPORTING LAITY AND CLERGY

(Pastoral Priority) Provide lifelong support for laity in their vocations, and grow and support our priestly vocations as well, provide opportunities for faith formation, and encourage the development of pastoral leadership in service to our common mission as the People of God

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
4.1 Establish and make clear the purpose and vision of the parish pastoral council	4.1.1 As parish pastoral councils are mandatory for each parish of the Diocese, any parish without one is to establish one as soon as possible. New parish pastoral councils are to draw up their own statutes according to diocesan norms and submit them to the Chancery for approval
	4.1.2 Established parish pastoral councils to revisit their statutes and discuss their practice to ensure the council operates effectively in investigating pastoral situations, reflecting on them, drawing appropriate conclusions, and recommending actions to the Parish Priest
	4.1.3 Parish pastoral councils to be separate and distinct from but collaborate with parish finance committees which are also mandatory in the Diocese. Each parish finance committee should look to the Parish Priest and parish pastoral council for a pastoral plan and priorities, while the Parish Priest and parish pastoral council should look to the finance committee for sound financial guidance, to ensure adequate finance for agreed pastoral priorities, and other resources needed to develop and implement parish plans and programs
4.2 Ensure the work of the pastoral council aligns with the purpose and vision of the parish and Diocese	4.2.1 Parish pastoral councils to discuss and identify priority areas in which the parish mission can be lived, taking into account the 5 priorities of the Diocese (i.e. family life, youth, ethnic diversity, laity and clergy, and evangelisation)
	4.2.2 Parish pastoral councils to consider what structures and parish traditions no longer serve the mission of the parish, in consultation with community members
4.3 Review and enhance parish liturgies	4.3.1 Each parish to establish a liturgy committee or similar if not already in place, bringing together appropriate parish team members, music ministers, youth representatives, and other suitable lay leaders
	4.3.2 The work of this liturgy committee is to include the preparation, coordination and the periodic evaluation of the beauty and solemnity of the liturgy, and the organisation of formation for liturgical ministers (supported by the Office for Worship and Institute for Mission)
	4.3.3 Without diminishing the role of the priest as the leader of the community's worship, each parish to provide formation for lay people in leading prayer within parish groups and ministries
	4.3.4 Each parish to encourage preparation for and full participation in the Mass by making available the revised Weekday and Sunday Missals for use or purchase, and/or publishing the readings in the parish bulletin. The Divine Office is also to be made available for prayer
4.4 Develop and promote opportunities for prayer and reflection beyond the liturgy	4.4.1 Parish teams to review the opportunities for personal and group prayer beyond the liturgy of the Mass including Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, Lectio Divina, the Angelus, novenas, and Christian Meditation among others
	4.4.2 Each parish to make available introductory resources on prayer and spirituality and devotional items for purchase within the parish, in collaboration with Catholic booksellers and retailers
4.5 Ensure the parish maintains familiarity and knowledge of its members	4.5.1 Each parish to conduct a parish census within the year if a census has not been conducted since 2012, facilitating an update of the parish PADRE database or similar (supported by PADRE contacts)
	4.5.2 A review of the personal information collection notice included in parish registration to permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ongoing correspondence between the parish and its members about events, programs and initiatives on offer - the transfer of relevant data with permission whenever individuals or families move from one parish to another within the Diocese
	4.5.3 With appropriate permissions, each parish to develop strategies to acknowledge significant milestones and anniversaries among its members (e.g. baptism, confirmation, marriage, anniversaries of death) to sustain connections and build communion in parish life

4.6 Develop and strengthen a culture of co-responsibility and collaboration in the parish to enhance its mission	4.6.1 Parish teams and ministry groups to undertake formation in the theology and practice of collaboration, reflecting on how working together can strengthen the common mission of the parish (supported by the Institute for Mission and Pastoral Planning Office)
	4.6.2 Explore and workshop opportunities within the parish where collaboration of ministries would bring mutual benefit (e.g. the collaboration of parish youth groups with catechists, collaboration of youth ministers and sacramental coordinators, group meetings of parish choirs and musicians)
	4.6.3 Develop opportunities for established Catholic couples to collaborate in marriage preparation as well as the facilitation and/or promotion of marriage enrichment opportunities within the parish and Diocese (supported by the Family and Life Office and CatholicCare Social Services)
4.7 Encourage and support the participation of the aged in parish life	4.7.1 Parish pastoral councils to consult the aged in their communities in order to identify their needs, gifts and the experience they bring to parish life and mission
	4.7.2 Parish pastoral councils to consider ways to invite full participation of the aged in liturgies, prayer groups, social events and other activities, recognising the example of faith and gifts they offer to the Church (e.g. Life Ascending Australia)
	4.7.3 Review the strength and effectiveness of pastoral support and care for the aged in the parish, including those in private homes, nursing and retirement homes, and other facilities. Special consideration to be given to the access of the aged and infirm to the sacraments and Christian companionship
	4.7.4 Parish pastoral councils and ministry group leaders to enhance the role of grandparents in the witness and transmission of faith in the life of families and the parish (supported by the Family and Life Office)
	4.7.5 Ensure the parish community offers (or collaborates with another to provide) a grief or bereavement group for all those who have experienced loss, regardless of age (including widows and those who have suffered miscarriage or neo-natal loss). Seek experienced parishioners to volunteer as leaders with the support of CatholicCare Social Services
4.8 Promote a culture of adult learning in the parish, providing opportunities for growth in faith and understanding	4.8.1 Parish teams, parish pastoral councils, and ministry group leaders to promote faith formation opportunities available at the Institute for Mission and Pastoral Life Centres within the Diocese on a regular basis
	4.8.2 Strengthen RCIA and its integration within the life of the parish community through consolidating groups of sponsors and encouraging wider support of catechumens and candidates
	4.8.3 Each parish to review and plan for opportunities for the newly baptised and confirmed to undertake mystagogia (post-baptismal formation) in the parish, including ongoing opportunities for adult catechesis, group prayer and participation in parish ministries or social events and groups

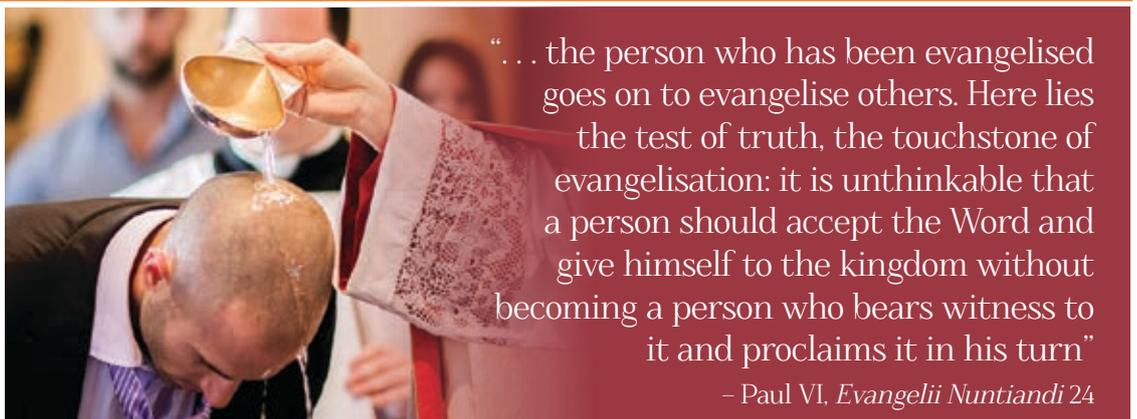
GOAL 5 NEW EVANGELISATION

(Pastoral Priority)

Reach out to those not strongly connected to their parish or who are estranged from our Church, inviting them to rediscover the joy of Christian faith and community

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
5.1 Develop and strengthen an awareness of the parish as an evangelising community	5.1.1 Parish teams and parish pastoral councils to dedicate reflection day/s on ‘the parish as an evangelising community’, reflecting on opportunities to cultivate a culture of evangelisation in the parish and initiatives to reach out to the wider community as disciples ‘called and sent’ (1 Cor. 1.1). Support available from the Institute for Mission and Pastoral Planning Office
	5.1.2 Parish teams, parish pastoral councils and ministry group leaders to promote and participate in formation on the theology and practice of evangelisation, as made available at the Institute for Mission and Pastoral Life Centres within the Diocese
	5.1.3 Each parish and its associated schools to organise a combined ‘commissioning Mass’ or similar at the start of the school year, to bring together key leaders and groups that serve the faith of the community, blessing them for their evangelising mission in the year ahead (e.g. include parish staff, school staff, baptismal preparation teams, catechists, sacramental teams, and RCIA teams among others)
	5.1.4 Promote on a regular basis the stories of faith, discipleship and witness of the community in parish and school bulletins, focusing on the way in which the Gospel has changed and directed the lives of parish members

	<p>5.1.5 Identify suitable occasions and forums for sharing testimonies of faith that witness to the Gospel alive in the parish community (e.g. during sacramental preparation, in youth groups and in parish family groups and events), preferably with a range of speakers in age and life experience</p>
	<p>5.1.6 Dedicate particular Sundays and seasons to inviting those on the margins of faith to participate in parish life (e.g. online and print invitations to parishioners’ relatives to join the community on Ash Wednesdays, at confirmations, and at Christmas and Easter liturgies)</p>
<p>5.2 Strengthen the connection between Catholic parish and school communities</p>	<p>5.2.1 Each parish and its associated schools to share celebrations, liturgical and otherwise, whenever possible (e.g. parish feast days) in order to strengthen a sense of common identity and mission. The active involvement of school students and parents in these liturgies is strongly recommended</p>
	<p>5.2.2 Each parish to invite students from associated schools to take up a variety of ministries in the parish (e.g. as altar servers, youth leaders, catechists, music ministers). Consider a certificate of reward or participation as an acknowledgement of service and an opportunity to draw parents and families into contact with the life of the parish</p>
	<p>5.2.3 Each parish to review the availability of, and invitation to, Masses and sacramental initiation for children in State schools to ensure their inclusion in the life of the parish community</p>
	<p>5.2.4 Parish teams and/or committed parents to represent the parish community at Catholic school orientation days to welcome and inform new school parents of activities, programs and support available within the parish and Diocese (parish ‘welcome packs’ to be made available)</p>
	<p>5.2.5 Liturgical resources to be shared and exchanged between the parish liturgical committee or similar and RECs in associated schools, including approved liturgical music and the interchange of school and parish choirs at suitable events</p>
<p>5.3 Review parish engagement of social media and technology to reach out to existing and potential parishioners</p>	<p>5.3.1 Each parish to have a website that is regularly reviewed to ensure at least the following are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a mission statement that describes the fundamental inspiration, identity, purpose and future aspirations (i.e. vision) of the parish community - an accurate list of contact details for the parish team and ministry and prayer groups operating within the parish - the most recent parish bulletins for reading, download and printing - an online parish calendar that is updated and used to promote key events in the life of the parish, deanery and Diocese - other relevant forms, including parish registration, sacramental preparation, planned giving, and expressions of interest in ministry or prayer groups - links to online faith resources, diocesan agencies and services, parish or school childcare services, local Catholic schools, and to neighbouring parishes - an ability to submit prayer requests and acknowledgement of receipt of these requests - a page specifically for Catholics considering a return to the Church as well as for newcomers to the faith
	<p>5.3.2 Each parish to explore the potential of Facebook, Twitter, Skype and other social media technologies to build and grow their community of faith, with a focus on the young, families and those without easy access to community life (to be supported in this response, evaluation and issues of data security by the diocesan Social Media Coordinator)</p>
<p>5.4 Promote the Catholic faith and parish life in the wider community</p>	<p>5.4.1 Advertisement of parish RCIA groups, seasonal liturgies, significant social events and groups in local papers and community boards</p>



“... the person who has been evangelised goes on to evangelise others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelisation: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn”

– Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 24