

## **Greetings from your Parish Pastoral Council.**

**30 May 2021**

We are looking ahead to the Parish AGM which will be held after the **9.30 Mass on Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>**. We hope to see you all there, but in the meantime to provide some material for you to think about, and talk about with fellow parishioners.

Last year, after the July AGM and, with the support of our then resident priest, John O'Connor, the Parish Council formulated a pastoral plan, and I would like to let you know what progress has been made, and where we see things going from here onwards.

### **Forming Disciples:**

The "Take 1" groups which ran through Advent last year, and Lent this year, have proved fertile ground for talking and thinking about where we find the risen Jesus in our everyday experience. Some groups have opted to continue meeting, and it is hoped to convene a larger gathering of those already committed, and those who would like to be involved, in the near future.

The two thicker bulletins which we published, at Christmas and Easter, showed the blossoming of parish faith stories, and more are being sought for this Christmas.

Café and pub gatherings have slightly dropped off, although some attempts were made to keep them going. Can they be revived?

Fr Neil has begun to help us in formation for Ministry – as Introducers, and Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion, and a parishioner is attending ongoing Diocesan training for this.

The formation of a parish e-book club is underway, and this promises productive group study of books which will help us "do theology ourselves".

Going forward, we would like to encourage more people to serve on an enlarged, more inclusive PPC.

### **Linking more closely with St Leo's:**

We have appointed a paid part-time school/parish liaison person, Coreenna Rooke, to help develop stronger links, and already this is leading to better communication.

The sacramental programme also provides the basis for ongoing contact with those parents whose children have been involved.

The number of Bishops' Representatives on the BOT at St Leo's has increased from 1 to 3, and all three are members of the parish.

Social links between school and parish are also being encouraged, with events such as the Matariki dinner, and the Ladies' High Tea. Fathers' Day event forthcoming!

### **Justice and Peace:**

As a Parish, we demonstrate real commitment to acts of compassion, such as donating to St Vincent de Paul and to Foodbanks, as well as support for De Paul House. There is no shortage of people who care about others, and who undertake works of compassion privately and in the wider community. Archbishop Oscar Romero famously said "When I give bread to the poor they call me saint; when I ask why the poor have no bread they call me a communist." Social justice involves acting to bring about change to unjust systems that keep people poor and marginalised; that is the future direction we hope for. A work in progress.

### **Financial Viability:**

Sharing the state of parish finances and encouraging increased pledges of time, talents and treasure has increased our annual income, which is greatly appreciated since it enables us to meet standing expenses and to consider priority items and new initiatives. Short messages about parish finances are now appearing in the weekly bulletin, and there will be a complete statement prior to the AGM.

There is a proposal to build a Columbarium on the western side of the church, as a resting place for the ashes of deceased parishioners. Architectural plans have been drawn up, and the expenses for these funded by a generous donor; they are on display at the back of the church. As a parish we need to decide if we want a Columbarium, and whether we are prepared to fundraise to build it.