

Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish Parish Pastoral Plan

Dear Parishioners,

Following a lengthy and comprehensive preparation process, I am delighted to approve this *Parish Pastoral Plan* for implementation over the coming years. I seek your prayerful support and active participation in living out the *Jesus Communion Mission* vision as expressed in this *Pastoral Plan*. I offer my thanks to the members of the Planning Task Group, the Parish/Community Pastoral Councils and all parishioners in the preparation of this *Plan*. May God continue to bless us abundantly.

Fr Pat Molony - Parish Priest - January 2009



Embrace the Person and Vision of JESUS Goals 1 & 2

Goal: 1

To further develop a growth in faith and understanding of Jesus and a living of his vision of love, justice and peace for our world.

Strategy: 1a

To establish a faith education group to promote and facilitate easy access to adult faith education programs, courses, resources and publications.

Strategy: 1b

To further extend awareness of and involvement in the variety of existing faith development activities such as parish newsletter faith reflections, Lenten programs, scripture courses, devotional exercises, a parish mission and ecumenical prayer services.

Goal: 2

To provide a variety of opportunities that will assist our young people to grow in their faith in Jesus and in their relationship with our local church community.

Strategy: 2a

To form an ongoing "*Parish & School Connections*" task group which will build stronger bonds between the members of both communities by using improved communications, regular needs-identification processes, combined educational and social events, joint liturgies for special occasions and shared promotion of events open to all people.

Strategy: 2b

To survey a cross section of parish children, young people and their parents in order to clarify their views about church life and ways to engage more young people in parish life activities.

Strategy: 2c

To arrange regular combined gatherings during the preparatory period of the sacramental program participants drawn from the Catholic school and the State School Religious Education groups, for shared liturgy and social interaction.

Strategy: 2d

To establish regular meetings of parish leaders with the college campus minister in order to build stronger links between the school and parish and to encourage young people to participate in parish events, especially Sunday Eucharist and social welfare service activities for those most in need.

Strategy: 2e

To recommend the provision of a sacred space at Marymount for opportunities for personal prayer, small group liturgies and devotional activities for students, parents, staff and visitors.

Strategy: 2f

To establish a youth ministry group to facilitate the ongoing connection between post secondary young people and the parish. Their special focus would be supporting tertiary students, e.g. Bond University students, who already attend Sunday Eucharist.



Build COMMUNION with God and Others Goals 3 to 6

Goal 3

To sustain and further develop all initiatives which contribute towards making parish liturgy vibrant, meaningful and inclusive.

Strategy: 3a

Establish a parish liturgy group that would support and resource liturgical activities throughout the parish.

Strategy: 3b

Promote educational opportunities for people involved in parish liturgy.

Strategy: 3c

Provide ongoing encouragement and appropriate assistance to liturgical initiatives already operating within the parish namely:

- Choirs and music groups.
- Programmes for Sacraments of Initiation, including Baptismal preparation
- Meditation groups
- Lent and Advent discussion groups
- Groups who contribute towards enhancing the liturgical environment.
- Funeral support group
- Training for liturgical ministries e.g. readers and special ministers of Holy Communion.
- Training and education for lay-led liturgies.
- Celebration of special feasts
- Remembering services for deceased members.
- Sung evening prayer
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Goal 4

To provide assistance to our faith communities to further develop their welcoming and inclusive approaches, so that new-comers are attracted and all members have a sense of belonging.

Strategy: 4a

Establish a 'Welcome to Communities Task Group' to develop a plan specifically designed to enhance connections with new and continuing parish members.

Strategy: 4b

Organise a parish-wide review of all current welcoming activities, as well as printed materials used, within the individual communities. The information will be used in the development of the proposed parish plan of welcome.

Strategy: 4c

Develop an effective communication system to connect with newcomers, providing them with relevant parish information, and enquiring about their interests and desires to be involved. This will incorporate all existing systems of communication in the parish.

Strategy: 4d

Affirm and develop ministry to the elderly, sick, frail and housebound of the parish.

Strategy: 4e

Undertake a review on how as a parish we can be more inclusive of those with disabilities, ethnic cultural diversity and diverse expressions of faith.

Strategy: 4f

Provide ongoing encouragement and appropriate assistance to welcoming initiatives already operating within the parish, namely:

- Welcomers at Sunday Eucharist
- Cuppa after liturgies
- Welcomes to new parishioners
- Parish social occasions
- Celebrations of special days
- Parish website
- Produce stall at Mudgeeraba

Goal 5

To promote, support and resource pastoral leadership at all levels.

Strategy: 5a

Provide ongoing encouragement and appropriate assistance to promote, support and resource the pastoral leadership already operating within the parish namely:

- Parish Leadership Team
- Administration Team
- Parish and Community Pastoral Councils
- Finance Council
- Ministry Groups
- School Board
- Parish School Parents & Friends Assn
- Parish Working bees
- Worship centre volunteers

Goal 6

To maintain and further develop the initiative of small groups to nurture and support people on their faith journey and provide a sense of belonging.

Strategy: 6a

Publish a current directory of all small groups in the parish, which will include an outline of the focus and activities of each group and their meeting times. In addition it will include the information enabling interested parishioners to become a member of any of these groups.

Strategy: 6b

Invite parishioners to submit their interest in forming new parish groups such as a mothers' social group or family prayer group, beyond those groups already established.

Strategy: 6c

Provide ongoing encouragement and appropriate assistance to the small groups already operating within the parish, namely:

- Prayer groups
- Passionist Family Groups
- RCIA group
- Ecumenical prayer/study groups
- CWL
- Ladies' and Men's dinner groups
- Quilt makers
- Mudgeeraba Social Group
- TEAMS (Movement for married spirituality)
- Card Groups
- Teachers of religion in State Schools
- Volunteers in Aged Care facilities, in "Vinnies" shops and in other community groups



Engage in Jesus' MISSION in Our World Goals 7 to 9

Goal 7:

To assist each other in promoting Christ's vision for the world and to value the impact of our everyday Christian living on building a better world.

Strategy: 7a

To compile and share a list of the areas where parishioners have an opportunity to be an influence for good, as they bring Christian values to each interaction with the wider community. This list would include workplaces and work-related organisations, service and community outreach clubs and organizations, and sporting, recreation, and leisure groups and clubs.

Strategy 7b

To provide additional support to the priests for the provision of engaging and effective homilies which affirm the importance of everyday Christian living. Preachers at lay led liturgies will continue to be assisted in the preparation of the Gospel reflections.

Strategy 7c

To circulate the full text or summary of the weekly homilies via the newsletter, special handouts, notice board posters and website pages so that everyone has the opportunity to better understand their baptismal call to live the Christian way of life.

Goal 8:

To communicate the message of Jesus and the activities of the parish and wider church as we strive to live Jesus' mission in our world.

Strategy 8a

To produce a quarterly parish newspaper /magazine with reports from a selection of the parish ministry groups including detailed news of special church events and achievements in the parish, deanery and archdiocese. The publication could also offer information about Mass times during special seasons of the year as well as thought provoking articles on wider church issues.

Strategy 8b

To promote and report parish events through local secular newspapers and radio stations as well as via the catholic press such as *The Catholic Leader* and the national CathNews internet service www.cathnews.com

Strategy 8c

To further develop the use of the parish website and other parish publications for the promotion and reporting of parish news and activities, and also featuring faith and good news stories and achievements of the Catholic community at local, national and international levels.

Strategy 8d

To continue to invite feedback about the emerging needs of parishioners, priorities of the parish and possible strategies for action in order to respond constructively.

Goal 9:

To strengthen and extend the network of parish delivery of social welfare and the understanding of its place in Christian life.

Strategy 9a

To establish a social justice group comprising representatives of the parish and the college communities. An important focus will be to organise public educational forums on relevant social justice topics attracting across age involvement.

Strategy 9b

To actively support and promote the existing social welfare services offered by the St Vincent de Paul Society parish conference and the Care & Concern ministry group. These groups will be consulted regularly with a view to develop appropriate responses.

Strategy 9c

To develop a comprehensive list of social justice activities in which members of the parish are involved (e.g. horse riding for the disabled), so as to encourage greater parishioner participation in social justice activities within the wider community.

Strategy 9d

To strengthen links with other Christian churches in order to co-ordinate the greater provision of ecumenical outreach services in order to avoid duplication and maximise the effectiveness of the services provided. The use of the Ministers' Fraternal groups (e.g. Mudgeeraba Ministers' Fraternal) could lead to better responses to the wider community social needs.

Strategy 9e

To further develop the parish website so that other community service groups and government services are better advertised and there are links to the websites of the many other groups (government, church or voluntary associations). The website will also list the range of social welfare support services provided by members of the parish.

Background Notes

The Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish was established in 1956. The 2006 National ABS Census revealed that there were 28, 041 Catholics in the parish. By 2009 the parish had grown to include five worship centres at Burleigh Heads, Burleigh Waters, Palm Beach, Miami, and Mudgeeraba. Masses are also being celebrated at various times at Springbrook, Gold Coast Hospital Robina campus, and Ozanam Villas. It currently has two parish schools: Marymount Primary School and Marymount College. The average Mass attendance on any weekend is approximately 1800, which includes a significant number of visitors to the Gold Coast from all over the world.

In 2007, a meeting of the Combined Parish Pastoral Council approved the formation of a Task Group to develop a *Pastoral Plan* for the Parish, which would operate for three to five years. Each Mass centre nominated a representative for the group. The members were Father Pat Molony PP, Christopher Kennedy (Chair and representative of Burleigh Waters), Robert Smith (Calvary Church, Miami), Leigh Follett (Infant Saviour Church, Burleigh Heads), Mary Allan (St Benedict's, Mudgeeraba) and Keith Linnane (Our Lady of the Way, Palm Beach). Keith Furniss was Minute Secretary. Sister Cecilia Anning rsj and Mr Chris Ehler from the Archdiocesan *Faith and Life Vicariate* provided consultancy support. The Task Group met regularly from November 2007 until March 2009 and worked collaboratively in a spirit of prayer and reflection to formulate the plan.

The structure of the *Plan* came from the 2003 Archdiocesan Synod which developed the *Jesus Communion Mission* vision. Archbishop John Bathersby promulgated nine archdiocesan priorities as the living expression of dynamic reality of the *Jesus Communion Mission* vision.

An initial draft of the *Parish Pastoral Plan* was based on the results of the 2006 National Church Life Survey (1100 responses) and the parish designed survey of parishioners in December 2007 (700 responses). The final draft was prepared in response to feedback from the members of the Combined Parish Pastoral Council, from consultative forums held at each of the worship centres during October 2008 and over 130 individual response forms submitted by parishioners.

The success of the *Plan* depends on every member of the parish accepting the responsibility to embrace and support the *Plan*, whether by volunteering for specific tasks, expressing interest and taking part in activities, or by encouraging, supporting and praying for each other, as we further develop an inclusive and vibrant parish.