



Parish Plan



Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

Narre Warren

“JOURNEYING TOGETHER”



2006/2009

Our Parish Mission Statement

*“Our Lady Help of Christians Parish will be visible in
Narre Warren in matters of Faith and Christian
values where it’s members aim to be recognised
By the example they provide in outreach
Programs and in the way they
live their own lives”.*

OUR PARISH VALUES

- *We are a community based Parish with a strong emphasis on prayer and worship.*
- *We value the diversity and skills of our community and seek to include all people in the life of our Parish.*
- *We recognise the needs and aspirations of our community.*
- *We value the contribution of our Clergy and Parish schools as part of our community.*
- *We value the significant sacrifices and achievements made by our Parishioners in the growth of the Parish.*

OUR PARISH OBJECTIVES

- *We will continue and expand present faith and liturgical programmes.*
- *We will develop programmes for the formation of lay people to become more involved in Faith and evangelism programmes.*
- *We will continue with existing welcoming programmes.*
- *We will take advantage of our skills and diversity to build on existing programmes and to develop new community and hospitality initiatives.*
- *We will build on existing outreach programmes to ensure that we satisfy the needs and aspirations of a wider range of people in our community.*
- *We will provide training and support for people to take leadership roles within our community.*
- *We will provide material and moral support for our Clergy and parish leaders.*
- *We will continue to foster the close relationship between our schools and other Parish Communities.*
- *We will continue to be an integral part of the Sale Diocese and will look for opportunities to develop relationships with other Church and local communities.*
- *We will continue to provide financial support for Parish infrastructure and provide additional support for new programmes.*
- *We will continue to plan for our future and review our planning process.*

We will ensure our Parish programmes are widely communicated and that all activities are co-ordinated at a central point.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH PLAN
SEPTEMBER 2006 - AUGUST 2009

PARISH CO-ORDINATION TEAM

Objectives	Strategies
To assume the role of a Parish Coordination Team that will be responsible to plan and set directions for the Parish.	To elect a team comprising representatives from the Parish clergy, Parish staff and from each of the Parish schools and from the major focus areas. To have regular (bi monthly) meetings to confirm and set direction.
To ensure that there is effective succession planning and understanding of the role of the Parish Co Ordination Team.	To arrange annual appointments/elections to the parish co ordination team.
To ensure that Parish policies, direction and activities are widely communicated and understood. To maintain and communicate up to date information on Parish Groups/Functions, services, activities and news.	To use a variety of approaches to sharing this information – Church and school newsletters, Parish website, Catholic life, local news media. To provide the opportunity for parishioners to have input to policies and direction.
Provide support for existing groups and provide sponsorship for new initiatives	Ensure existing groups are supported. Identify and develop new initiatives.
Co ordinate Parish /Diocesan Activities	Ensure effective co ordination of Parish, Regional Diocesan activities. Look for opportunities for shared activity, knowledge, resources etc.

FORMATION –Nurturing Life and Leadership of Community

Objectives	Strategies
To provide parishioners with opportunities to develop, enhance and grow the whole person.	To present a program focussing on self-development and self-acceptance. To organise guest speakers at significant times of the year to enrich understanding on issues of faith and morals. To plan and coordinate Parish Missions and retreats. <i>Identify Parishioners with existing skills who are prepared able to help with development of fellow parishioners.</i> <i>Identify and provide resources for self- development.</i> <i>To promote and advertise external learning and development opportunities.</i>

PARISH RENEWAL – BUILDING PARISH AS WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE.

Objectives	Strategies
<p>Welcoming New Parishioners To enhance our spirit of welcome for new parishioners.</p> <p>To recognise the opportunities presented by our diverse and multi cultural community.</p>	<p><i>To establish a New Parishioners welcoming committee</i> <i>Welcome group at each Mass wearing name tags.</i> <i>Central point in church foyer for Parish information.</i></p> <p>To contact all new parishioners by phone/visit within 2 weeks of cards being presented to make them feel welcome in the community. To have new parishioners welcomed through a prayer service at a Sunday liturgy held once a month. To organise a morning tea after 9.15 Sunday Liturgy for new parishioners either when (i) there are 20 new parishioners or (ii) after 6 months. <i>To create an environment where people from all backgrounds are welcome and comfortable in participating in all parish activities.</i> <i>Welcome messages in many languages.</i> <i>To provide opportunity for all parishioners to become actively involved in existing and new welcoming initiatives.</i></p>
<p>Passionist Family Groups To continue the work of Passionist Family Groups within the Parish</p>	<p>To encourage new families and grow existing groups.</p>
<p>Friendship Group To provide opportunity for people to meet and share activities.</p>	<p>To continue the to promote and foster the activities of the existing successful group.</p>
<p>Social Committee To promote and coordinate Parish Social Activities.</p>	<p>To maintain an active social committee to plan and organise major community and social activities. To liase with other groups to coordinate Parish social life.</p>
<p>Playgroups To provide a friendly and relaxed environment for children & parents/adult carers.</p>	<p>To continue to provide a stimulating environment to assist with learning and development through fun, play and activities. To continue to offer a support network for adults to develop new contacts and friendships. To maintain cost at a minimum.</p>
<p>Funeral Catering To provide catering for funerals where families require refreshments at the Parish.</p>	<p>To continue to meet these needs as required. To establish a list of volunteers to assist at call. To provide coordination of these activities.</p>

Objectives	Strategies
<p>Legion of Mary To continue the work of the Legion of Mary as a Catholic organization of lay people seeking to rekindle the apostolic fervor of the first Christians with their complete trust in the Holy Spirit and to reach out and promote gospel values within the local community.</p>	<p>To continue to build on the existing strong base that has developed in Narre Warren. -Weekly meetings -Delivery of Rosary statues -Home visitations -Nursing home visits -Providing assistance in Parish activities. To continue links with other regional groups and activities To organise a junior praesidium for 11-18 year olds.</p>

<p>St Vincent De Paul To promote the mission and objectives of the St Vincent de Paul Society. To help people in need of assistance. To give a "HAND UP" rather than a hand out.</p>	<p>To continue to visit people in their homes to provide material assistance and advice as required. To help those people in need of assistance to become independent. To provide links to other community services. To support St Vincent de Paul shops in Cranbourne . To run the Parish piety stall. To co ordinate special appeals in our Parish and schools. To contribute to regional St Vincent de Paul activities. To sponsor local youth conferences of St Vincent de Paul. To continue to provide support for overseas "twinned conferences". To attract and encourage and provide training for new members.</p>
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<p>Our Lady Help of Christians Handyman Service. An opportunity for members of the Parish to live their faith by helping those in need in a very hands-on way.</p>	<p>To establish a group to co ordinate this activity. To develop a bank of volunteers to provide a variety of free "handy man" type assistance to those in need.</p>
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Schools

Objectives	Strategies
<p>Don Bosco Primary School</p>	<p>That the values of Jesus, in particular, love, freedom, justice, truth, forgiveness, hope and compassion inform and enrich all aspects of school life.</p> <p>In a welcoming and caring environment which supports and strengthens relationships.</p> <p>In students reaching a high level of engagement and commitment to their learning.</p> <p>In challenging students to discover God and to develop and enrich personal and spiritual growth.</p>
<p>Mary MacKillop Primary School</p> <p>Our membership of the Catholic Community, our call to develop a meaningful relationship with God, Gospel value and an environment where the presence of God is recognised, experienced and celebrated.</p>	<p>Provide regular opportunities for students to participate in the planning and celebration of liturgical experiences.</p> <p>Support the implementation of the Parish Sacramental Program.</p> <p>Ensure opportunities are provided for a variety of prayer experiences in the school community.</p> <p>Develop shared understandings of the traditions and culture of the Catholic Church.</p> <p>Ensure the provision and implementation of a thorough and comprehensive Religious education program.</p> <p>Ensure the Prep to Grade 6 curriculum supports the goals of the diocese and Parish.</p> <p>Ensure there is a strong link between the Religious Education program, social justice, student leadership initiatives and action.</p>
<p>Trinity Primary School</p>	<p>We envisage a school where the students are led to a loving relationship with God and challenged to find meaning and value in their lives.</p> <p>We envisage a school where those within the school community are valued and cared for.</p> <p>We envisage a school where all generations & cultures live, worship & grow together.</p> <p>We envisage a school where the school is actively involved in community service and when issues of environment and social justice are given importance.</p> <p>We envisage a school where the partnership between family, school and parish is dynamic.</p>
<p>St Francis Xavier Regional College</p>	<p>St. Francis Xavier College is a Catholic community that is educative and supportive. We have a clear purpose: the development of a well-rounded Christian person of competence, conscience and compassion who will be of service in the world and who has the generosity to make a contribution. We recognise God's presence in our lives by celebrating and pursuing excellence in the God-given gifts of our individuals and our community.</p>

SPIRITUALITY – ENRICHING PRAYER, LITURGY AND LIFE.

Objectives	Strategies
<p>Liturgy Group To prepare weekly liturgies and liturgies for special events/occasions. To enhance liturgy with more variety and involvement especially from young parishioners.</p>	<p>To work with Priests, Deacons, Music Groups and youth co-ordination. To have key people from representative groups to attend monthly meetings. To have team members to preview readings to develop discussions and ideas. <i>To work with Parish youth groups to develop liturgies to meet their needs</i> To identify and provide training for members. To compare liturgies from other Parishes. To set up regular training for special ministers and readers.</p>
<p>Music Groups To provide music/song for Sunday and special Masses and sacramental activities. To provide music and song that will inspire people to pray with joy and to participate in liturgy as one community.</p>	<p>To have representatives from separate music groups to set direction for parish music activities and to co ordinate music for special occasions. <i>To recognise and cater where possible for different music needs/preferences of individual parishioners and groups.</i> To continue to provide the existing music at all Masses and at special occasions. To work with other Parish liturgy and prayer groups to prepare special liturgies.</p>
<p>Prayer Group To foster spiritual development and growth through music and worship meetings with a charismatic experience. To build community and to support Parish activities in spiritual and practical ways.</p>	<p>To continue and grow existing activities within the Parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday prayer meetings - Monday pastoral planning meetings - Music practice - Retreats - Life in the Spirit seminars - Cell group formations - Youth groups - Social activities <p>To co ordinate group's activities with other parish activities.</p>
<p>Children's Liturgy To provide liturgy activities for younger children.</p>	<p>To continue with existing program at weekend Masses. To maintain and train volunteers for this program. To seek opportunities to enhance the existing program.</p>

<p>Baptism Preparation To prepare parents for the celebration of their child's Rite of Welcome and Baptism Ceremony. To deepen the parent's faith and their understanding of the child's initiation into the Christian Community.</p>	<p>Through the Baptism Team, to provide a welcoming, supporting and encouraging atmosphere for all parents who attend the preparation meeting. To educate the parents in all aspects of the sacrament through discussion, input, sharing and video with emphasis on belonging to a christian community. To help parents prepare for the ceremony by selecting Scripture readings and writing individual prayers for their child.</p>
<p>Godstart To provide ongoing Parish contact with babies who are baptised in our Parish.</p>	<p>To establish a data base to serve the programs need. To deliver birthday cards to all babies baptised in our parish and turning one from July 1st. To identify more volunteers with the skills to undertake this work. To advertise Godstart through other parish groups and to link with Godstart processes in the Melbourne Archdiocese.</p>

<p>Parish Sacramental Program To pass on our Christian faith, values, traditions, beliefs and stories to the children of our community. It is within this community that children learn what it is to be Catholic. The whole faith community is needed to help our children before, during and after the celebration of the Sacraments. We provide a parish-based program, which invites our families to present their children for sacraments at celebrations within our parish community at our Sunday services. The parish works in partnership with the families and the parish schools in the faith journey of all our young parishioners.</p>	<p>To continue to coordinate Sacramental activities through a Sacramental Team. To encourage parents as the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith, particularly by the witness of their lives. They are the best teachers of their children – nobody has the same power to shape the attitudes and values of a child. To assist parents in this process we offer an information meeting, booklet to work on at home, parent & child workshops and a sacramental coordinator to answer queries. To be responsible for co-ordinating sacramental preparation and providing the necessary resources. This is a role of assisting families who are involved in the program, and of providing faith education for both adults and children. To ensure the sacraments are taught at every level of our Catholic schools. This means that the child's understanding and learning is helped to develop throughout their school life at a level appropriate to their situation. We offer support and personal encouragement to families who do not attend our Catholic Schools, through home visits & telephone support. To offer the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation through our program.</p>
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<p>RCIA/RCIC To provide information, training and formation for people wishing to become part of the Church or wishing to learn more about the Church.</p>	<p>To continue to co ordinate RCIA/RCIC activities. To establish 3 teams of permanent and occasional members supported by a core team. To have each team responsible for separate activities in the process. To liaise with liturgy team to plan rites of acceptance. To encourage more team members and sponsors. To promote activities through Parish and schools.</p>
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YONG PEOPLE – CONNECTING AND RE CONNECTING WITH YOUTH

Objectives	Strategies
<p>Young Adults Group To coordinate the activities of the 18-25 year old group.</p>	<p><i>To provide a forum for Parish youth to identify their needs and set direction for future activities.</i> To coordinate activities with Diocesan youth programs. To organise social gatherings and invite youth to organise and participate in a youth Masses and other liturgies. To investigate opportunities for the group to be involved in community outreach activities. <i>To use World youth Day 2008 as an opportunity to focus on Youth issues and needs.</i> <i>To investigate/provide information about existing programmes for youth- Antioch, Catholic ministry, Young Vinnies, Alpha for Youth</i></p>
<p>Youth Group To establish a group for 13-17 year olds.</p>	<p><i>To provide a forum for Parish youth to identify their needs and set direction for future activities.</i> To provide opportunities for people in this age group to be involved in a number of activities that recognises their needs and that they are an integral part of the Parish community groups. <i>To establish links with local schools and with school activities.</i> <i>To use World youth Day 2008 as an opportunity to focus on Youth issues and needs.</i> <i>To investigate/provide information about existing programmes for youth- Antioch, Catholic ministry, Young Vinnies, Alpha for Youth</i></p>

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Objectives	Strategies
<p>Finance Committee To manage operations in an efficient and honourable manner and to build longer term infra-structural strength.</p>	<p>To continue to evaluate management systems with the objective of ensuring the systems are progressive and fulfil all requirements.</p> <p>To continue to evaluate all money handling activities with the objective of ensuring that all systems are as accurate and as risk free as possible.</p> <p>To continue to develop the capital and maintenance forward plan to protect assets and meet future asset requirements.</p> <p>To continue to manage debt efficiently and in the best interests of the parish community.</p> <p>To continue to manage roster systems for volunteers for various tasks within the parish administration.</p>
<p>Administration Staff To provide administrative support for Parish and Parish activities.</p>	<p>To continue to provide support for clergy, Parish team and parish groups.</p> <p>To be the first point of contact for enquiries on parish activities.</p> <p>To provide administrative support to Parish Coordinating team.</p> <p>To assist in the Organisation and conduct of major parish events.</p> <p>To prepare weekly newsletters and to maintain parish website.</p> <p>To maintain parish rosters.</p>