



Parish Pastoral Council Annual Report - 2024

Dear fellow parishioners,

I am pleased to be able to provide you with a report from the Parish Pastoral Council ahead of our Annual Parish Forum. The 2024 Annual Parish Forum will be held at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, November 24 at 11 am. It will be immediately followed by our end of year luncheon that is open to all parishioners, where we will be able to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions so many people have made to the life of our parish this year.

The agenda for the Forum and the associated papers are attached to this report. In addition to this report, at the forum parishioners will receive a report on the state of parish finances and will be asked to consider the proposal to put the underutilised parish properties up for sale, as well as nominations for appointment to the Parish Pastoral Council.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Membership

In 2024 the Parish Pastoral Council comprised the following members:

Ex Officio Members	
Fr. Binh Le	Parish Priest (to July 2024)
Fr. Samuel Kapani	Parish Administrator (from July 2024)
Kaylene Carlin	Principal, Sacred Heart Primary
Colleen McCambridge	Principal, St. Margaret Mary Primary
Marlene Monahan	Representative, Parish Finance Committee
General Members	
Katherine Wong	Elected Chairperson – Member since 2022 (1 st term)
Anita Bilaver	Elected Deputy Chairperson – Member since 2022 (1 st term)
Bang Bui	Elected Secretary – Member since 2022 (1 st term)
Tony Nicholson	Member since 2022 (2 nd term)
JP Eid	Member since 2024 (1 st term)
Miriam Kruse	Member since 2024 (1 st term)
Sean Gibson	Member since 2024 (1 st term)
Youth Members	
Marizabel Saliba	Member since 2024 (1 st term)
Naween Fernando	January 2024 – April 2024

This year we welcomed the 2023 nominated members to the Parish Pastoral Council: JP Eid, Miriam Kruse, Sean Gibson and Marizabel Saliba. We farewelled Grace Frazzica with grateful thanks for her time and contributions to our Parish Pastoral Council. Naween Fernando was nominated to our PPC at the 2023

Forum however due to time commitments resigned from the PPC in April 2024. We thank Naween for his contribution to our Parish community.

This year we also came together as a parish community on July 7 to thank Fr Binh Le for his service and commitment to our Parish. It was touching to see so many people come together to celebrate with Fr Binh and give thanks for his God-given gifts, and the occasion was a testament to the relationships he formed and how he enriched our community during his time here.

On July 10 we welcomed Fr Samuel Kapani to our Parish as our new Parish Administrator. Although he has been in our Parish for less than 6 months Fr Samuel's gentle guidance has provided strength, and we look forward to continuing to grow as a Parish under his attentive care. We thank Fr Samuel for his openness and support and extend our continued grateful thanks for his service to our community.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Activities in 2024

The focus of the PPC work in its six formal meetings throughout the year has been to begin the work outlined in the strategic plan approved at the 2023 Annual Parish Forum. Some of these initiatives are captured below:

Within **Belonging** we have now introduced welcome packs to provide visitors and new parishioners with some information about our parish. Our monthly "cuppas" after Mass have been hosted by rotating volunteer groups in order to spotlight the work that each group does for our Parish. Our Parish website is now well established and updated weekly with news and events that will assist with provision of information and in spreading the word.

Within **Belief**, the children's liturgy group is going from strength-to-strength through the generous help of our teachers and parishioners. We have also begun plans for Faith Formation events, following the success of the Faith Formation survey and with generous help from some experienced parishioners. We have shared combined School-Parish events for both school feast days as we seek to further strengthen the bond between school and church for our Parish primary schools. Strengthened youth groups with interparish activities have also become regular events providing space for youth to meet other like-minded friends.

Within **Sustainability** we have undertaken a much-needed Parish Census in order to have an up-to-date register of parishioners to inform our pastoral care, strategic planning and resource distribution. We have had regular communication regarding a long-term master plan for our properties enabling us to work alongside the Parish Finance Committee to bring forward the recommendation that we will present at this Annual Parish Forum. We have also begun work to establish a Safeguarding Group for our parish made up of representatives from key groups in order to better fulfill our responsibilities to the vulnerable and youth in our parish. We have continued to strengthen relationships with our local parishes at Williamstown, Altona and Altona North through regular meetings.

We give thanks for the generous donations of goods and contributions of time and service from so many parishioners over the last year. I am so proud to be a part of such a caring, dynamic and faith-filled community. If you would like to become more involved, I would encourage you to reach out and let us know how you would like to contribute – any actions are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at the forum and at the lunch on Sunday, November 24.

Kind regards,
Katherine Wong,
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council