



ST MARK'S PARISH, DRUMMOYNE

PARISH PASTORAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2006 – 2010

OVERVIEW

Introduction

In 2005 the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) prepared a draft pastoral plan for community consultation. The objectives of this pastoral plan are to:

- Assist the community of St Mark's in the fulfilment of our Parish's mission - *to bring Jesus Christ to the world* - thereby giving life to our Vision Statement adopted in 2001;
- Provide a structure to address challenges facing the Parish over the next five years and beyond; in particular, how to adapt to the challenges presented by an aging and diminishing number of priests; and
- Address a number of issues identified as important for the development of the Parish.

The Pastoral Plan was adopted by the PPC in February 2006.

The full text of the St Mark's Parish Pastoral Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010 can be found and downloaded from the website at www.stmarksdrummoynes.org.au

Pastoral Plan objectives

1. To grow a collaborative ministry.
2. To be inclusive and welcoming.
3. To engage and retain youth.
4. To develop our faith.
5. To reach out to those in need.

Objective 1: To grow a collaborative ministry

Members of the Parish have a baptismal calling to take responsibility for the community's ongoing existence. Whilst the priest is central to the Eucharist as well as a number of other areas of church life, many roles remain for which parishioners need to take responsibility. Community awareness of these responsibilities requires development, while at the same time, encouraging parishioners to become engaged in a "collaborative" ministry.

Our main strategies to achieve this objective will be to:

- Develop a better understanding of collaborative ministry.
- Educate parishioners about their co-responsibilities.
- Develop an organisational model for our Parish community, which allows better coordination of the various ministries and activities of the Parish.

Objective 2: To be inclusive and welcoming.

One of the strengths of St Mark's Parish is its strong sense of community. To nurture this sense of belonging, we want to ensure that those who would like to meet and interact with other community members have the opportunity to do so.

Our main strategies to achieve this objective will be to:

- Actively create an environment, which seeks to provide support to parishioners including those with special needs.
- Identify new and current parishioners who may wish to participate more actively in Parish life and provide opportunities for this to occur.
- Establish a Social Committee to co-ordinate and communicate Parish based activities and those of St Mark's Primary School.

Objective 3: To engage and retain youth

We want to ensure that our youth continue to feel welcome and are included as valued members of this community, whatever the stage of their relationship with the church.

Our main strategy to achieve this objective will be to identify meaningful opportunities to involve our youth in Parish activities by nurturing an environment, which allows them to keep in touch with one another and with their Parish. To effectively address this strategy may require some tailoring of parish activities.

Objective 4: To develop our faith

Our objective is to increase the knowledge of parishioners about the Catholic faith and the ways of the Church.

Our main strategy to achieve this objective will be to provide opportunities for parishioners to gain a greater understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith, using internal and external resources.

St Mark's already has in place a number of community-based faith development opportunities: the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), Lenten Groups and the Sacramental Programs.

By assisting parishioners in developing a deeper understanding of our Church and of God's word, the Parish's ability to achieve its other objectives and the realisation of a "collaborative ministry" is greatly enhanced.

Objective 5: To reach out to those in need

St Mark's Community believes that our mission to reach out to those in need is central to our relationship with God and our relationship to the celebration of the Eucharist.

In order to promote awareness of the needs of others, we need to address our community's understanding and knowledge of social justice issues. We must also provide opportunities to act and to minister.

Our Parish works with St Mark's Primary School to provide practical support to other schools in need and acknowledges the School's work with Night Patrol. Existing Parish programs, such as St Vincent de Paul initiatives, St Canice's Kitchen and Youth off the Streets are expressions of the great work being accomplished by our members.

Our main strategies to achieve this objective will be to provide education on social justice issues and opportunities for parishioners to practically assist those in need, both within our immediate community and the wider world.

Implementation

Implementation of the Pastoral Plan is ongoing.

The Plan has a 5-year rolling cycle and its achievements and lessons learnt from each year will be recorded in an Annual Report of activities so as to communicate the Plan's progress to St Mark's Community.

Should you wish to obtain further information or provide feedback on the Plan, please do so through:

- the website www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au
- calling the office on (02) 9181 1795, or
- sending an email to stmarks@bigpond.net.au

Brendan Bateman
Chairperson
Parish Pastoral Council