

NAZARETH PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MID YEAR REPORT: JUNE 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Further to the report provided in December 2023 the Nazareth Parish Leadership Team wish to provide the following update. The Team has met four times so far in 2024. In the December report, there were several key areas identified as part of the 2023 Action Plan that were in progress and further actioned this year to date.

The following is an update on those:

Invitation of children from Parish Schools to contribute to singing/music at Sunday Masses.	The Leadership Team are continuing to investigate opportunities for children from parish Schools to be involved in singing and music at Sunday Masses.
Ongoing work with Finance Committee and Advisory Team on Parish strategic planning.	The Archdiocese has granted approval to sell the land where the old Parish office resides. Council was provided with the necessary information, and we await their approval to publicise the application to sub divide.
Improvements in Parish communication: digitally and through website review.	<p>The rebuild of the website has been completed. The Parish community has been invited to access and provide any commentary that will help further improve the site.</p> <p>A plan to consider renaming the Parish to better reflect the area in which it operates has been developed. In consultation with the Archdiocese, a process has been developed and the Community will be asked to consider appropriate names soon. After selecting a name, a logo will be developed to match the name.</p>
Planning to welcome and engage new families, particularly in Armstrong Creek.	The Leadership are seeking support and suggestions for welcoming new families in Armstrong Creek into the Parish and to the celebration of Sunday Mass at Iona on the third Sunday of each month.
Planning to hold Mass at Iona: for community and school families.	In February, the first Sunday Mass was held at Iona. Since then, Mass has been held at 9am on the 3 rd Sunday of each month. The sub-committee is pleased with the take-up, and we expect attendance to grow as the word is shared with the local community.
Ongoing commitment to supporting the Parish Safeguarding Committee and Parish compliance.	All bar a few volunteers have now either renewed their WWCC information or have taken up the opportunity to register. It is a legal commitment for all volunteers to be registered with a WWCC.
Work with the data gained from the 2023 Parish Renewal Programme, including new volunteers to assist in various groups and ministries.	This is an ongoing project aimed at ensuring each person who has nominated to support an activity has been identified and assigned to the various groups across the parish. With WWCC registration now widely implemented, information will be circulated to all group leaders across the Parish to ensure the Parish is maximising the generous volunteers within our Community.

Consider options for sharing with neighbouring Parishes.

Some information discussions have occurred with neighbouring Parishes and will continue. At this stage, there is nothing formally to report.

Church Renewal

The Leadership Team was invited by the Director for Mission at the Archdiocese to prepare a submission to reflect on the Synod Report prepared by the bishops of Australia. The Director requested that the submission be prepared by the Leadership within the Parish. The submission was tabled with the Director in April after workshopping with both the Advisory and Leadership teams. A report has been submitted to the Bishops.

Fr Linh's Farewell

As reported earlier in the year, our Parish Priest has been offered and he has accepted a new Parish back in Melbourne. However, it would be inappropriate to allow him to go without acknowledging the wonderful pastoral care he has displayed as well as the friendships fostered over his 14 years at Nazareth Parish. It is now planned to celebrate the contribution of Fr Linh to our Parish on 22 September. This will be held at St Therese's Church with a Mass at 10:30am followed by a celebration. The Leadership Team are in the process of planning the event, and a subcommittee will be established and look to draw on support across the Parish.

Fran Belleville Farewell

Sadly, the parish has said farewell to one of the Leadership Team, Fran Belleville. Formally, Fran left on Sunday 2 June. To ensure the north end of the Parish is well represented, Nnamdi Elege has been co-opted on to the Leadership. We wish him every success and trust that he will be well supported across the Community.

Action Plans for 2024

In line with the previously published strategic intent of the Leadership Team, action plans for 2024 have been developed. The focus has not significantly changed being:

- Strengthen youth participation in Parish life.
- Increase awareness and participation in social justice.
- Improve communications channels.
- Foster an inclusive environment.
- Enhance the recruitment and support of Parish volunteers.
- Ensure sustainable financial management and asset utilisation.

On behalf of the Team, we thank everyone for the encouragement and support provided to the Leadership Team through most challenging times with our Community and the Catholic Church.

Greg Carty and Brian Keane

Co-chairs Nazareth Parish Leadership Team