

Our Lady and St Dympna, Aspley

Parish General Meeting

17 November 2019

# Welcome and Opening Prayer

Fr John

## Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have given us a model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Help us to make our Parish a place of welcome where all may experience love, peace and joy.

May we grow in times of joy and adversity through prayer, leading to greater unity and strength.

Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our Parish family.  
Help us to act with integrity in the image and likeness of Your Son.  
May we love one another as You love each one of us, and forgive  
each other's faults as You forgive ours.  
Help us to accept whatever You give and surrender whatever You  
take.

Our Lady and St Dympna, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.

MC

Iva Spanevello

# 1. Parish Report

Fr John Panamthottam

## Statistics

Parish Survey held in 2017 = 130 families responded

Church attendance: Weekend Masses (5) = 600-700 people in total

Week day Masses = 25-40 people at each Mass

Monthly Mass in Compton Gardens = 20 people

and Aspley Aged Care = 15 people

# Statistics

Ecumenical Meetings = Twice a year

Numbers of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion:

see Report from Sacramental Coordinators

Total Number of Volunteers = 150

# Important Parish Events

90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of our parish in 2018

Multi- cultural Mass and Celebration

Volunteer Day Mass and Celebration

Holy Communion

Confirmation

# Important Projects

Church Air conditioning

Upgraded lighting

Upgraded Audio System

CCTV Camera and Monitor Installed

Campus Wifi installed

Parish Hall Upgrade is in process

## **Things to do**

1. Safeguarding Compliance and Training

**Your Valuable Suggestions for the overall development of our Parish**

## 2. School Report

Janet Smith

The school enrolment is 670 students

St Dympna's cannot meet the demands for enrolment in prep

- 26 classes prep to year 6
- Staff of 83 plus music instrument teaching specialists
- Many boys leave at the end of year 4 to attend the boys colleges to ensure a place in a Catholic Secondary School
- BCE plans to open a secondary coeducational school in 2022
- BCE administers St Dympna's School

# Direction and Focus

## **Learning focus:**

developing literacy across the curriculum

## **Strategic focus:**

maintaining a high level of resources including learning spaces

## **Strategic Focus:**

maintaining a strong Catholic identity

# 3. Parish Leadership Team

## Rod Campbell

Members:

**Fr John (Parish Priest)**

**Sr Gabriel Williams osu (Pastoral Minister)**

**Janet Smith (School Principal)**

**Justin Bissell (Chair, Finance Committee)**

**Rod Campbell (Chair)**

**Kay Buxton (Secretary)**

**Susan Sherwood (Assistant Secretary)**

**Elvira Arpon**

**Ian Dove**

**Ike Soo Choon**

**Iva Spenevello**

**Sylvester Vas**

**The Mission of the Parish Leadership Team  
of the Parish of Our Lady and St. Dympna is to:**

- make our parish a spiritual and welcoming community;
- support and help the work of the Parish Priest and parish groups;
- support and encourage the people of our parish;
- provide vision and direction to the Parish community;
- collaborate with the Parish School community; and to
- empower the parish community to lead and make positive contributions to our parish and the wider community.

# Activities

- Completed Constitution (now on the parish website)
- Volunteers Celebration
- Re-instituted the Parish Meeting
- Initiated Festival of St Dympna
- Continued support for the Parish Priest and Parish activities
- Contact with Deanery (Ian Dove)
- Reporting of PLT activities and decisions
- Begun training of leaders:
  - Praying the Scriptures
  - APEST assessment and discussion of leadership qualities

# The future

- Publicise the Mission Statement
- Prepare for the future
- Plan for the Plenary Council
  - and the following activities, discussions, plans and hopes
- Questions and comments: Hold for later, please.

# The Parish Liturgy Team

Parish General Meeting

17 November 2019

*Liturgy – ‘the work of the people’*

# The Parish Liturgy Team

## Our members:

Fr John (Parish Priest)

Sr Gabriel Williams osu (Pastoral Minister)

Ian Dove (Chair)

Margaret Campbell

Di Carr

David Francis

Claude Gonsalves

Kim O'Rourke

Suzan Pekol

*Liturgy – 'the work of the people'*

# The Parish Liturgy Team

## Our role:

- Preparation
- Co-ordination
- Formation
- Evaluation

*Liturgy – ‘the work of the people’*

# The Parish Liturgy Team

## Our future:

- Plenary Council 2020
- Major Feasts & celebrations

*Liturgy – ‘the work of the people’*

The Parish Liturgy Team

**Thank you for your attention.**

**Questions?**

*Liturgy – ‘the work of the people’*

## 5. Sacramental Program

Kay Buxton (and Susan Sherwood)

### **Education of Children in the Faith.**

Parish based program supported by parishioners.

Thank you to those who ate the damper,  
became a prayer partner,  
and congratulated our children  
when they received the Sacraments.



# When



- **Penance** – Celebrated during the penitential season of Lent (38 children)
- **Reception of Communion** – Celebrated during the Easter season (80 children)
- **Confirmation** – Celebrated during Ordinary time (68 children)
- **Baptism** – Celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month (35 Baptisms in past 12 mths.  
Preparation for Baptism offered to parents – once a month)



TEAM: Sr Gabriel Williams, Susan Sherwood, Helen Hollamby, Kay Buxton

# Who



## **Sacrament of Penance:**

*Children in Year 5 who have received Confirmation and Eucharist*

## **First Holy Communion**

*Children in Year 4 who have been Baptised and Confirmed*

## **Confirmation**

*Children in Year 3 who have been Baptised*

What's Involved



Enrolments online

Parent evenings and attendance at weekend Masses

Workshops

Celebration of the Sacraments



## 6. Rosters for Ministers

Margaret Campbell

Please join these ministries.

Please ask others to join.

Please arrange replacements for yourselves.

# 7. Music Ministry

Suzan Pekol

Roster for four weekend masses

and for Christmas, Easter, and the First Communion, etc

Four groups:

Light of Jesus Family (Elvira and Alan Arpon)

Ike Soo Choon and Family

Men's Choir (Claude Gonsalves)

Women's Choir

plus School students and staff at 7 or 8 Sunday 5.00 pm masses

# Musicians

Organists: Judith, Yvonne and Nancy

Cantors: Suzan Pekol, Di Carr, Marie Kinne,  
Wendy Wilmot, Lucy Juncker

And from the Men's choir:

Rod Campbell, Claude Gonsalves, David Francis,  
Sylvester Vaz and Mike Lalor

Music Selected by: Sr Gabriel, Di Carr

# Needs and issues

- Future organists and keyboard players
- Increasing the number of singers and cantors
- Introduce buddy system
- Regular practice

# 8. Counting and Banking

Damien Salvati

Another four counters would create another counting group.

Another one or two bankers would assist.

# 9. Aspley Care

Tom Borger



# Vision Statement

*Aspleycare* is a Parish based organised group who volunteer to serve their local community by responding to the needs of the people in a Christian, neighbourly and practical way.

We provide a service to:

- Advise clients of options available to them in response to their needs.
- Help with financial and/or material aid to meet an immediate need.

***Aspleycare Ministers to those in our local community who require assistance irrespective of race, creed or religion.***



# Aspleycare



There are approximately 68 volunteers spread across the various groups that make up Aspleycare. Some do cleaning, some drive, some do administration roles and others are at the 'coal face' interviewing those in need, listening to their stories, troubles and requests, other raise money to support the ever increasing need for assistance from those who are in need.



# TIMELINE

In **1979** Fr Gerry McSweeney asked Colleen Egan to establish a Care and Concern group – Aspleycare within the Aspley Parish.

In **1979** Thursday Outings started.

In **2008** Aspleycare new premises were blessed and opened.

In **2009** Walking With Love started.

In **2015** the Aspleycare Constitution was replaced by the Archdiocesan Terms of Reference (conforming with Canon Law rather than Secular Law).

In **2019** the Aspleycare Foundation was transferred over to the Aspleycare Endowment Fund

In **2019** Federal Government funding was received to support the work of Aspleycare for the next four and a half years.



# **Aspleycare**

**is made up of the following groups of volunteers**

## **EMERGENCY RELIEF**

Aspleycare distributes Commonwealth Government Emergency Relief Funds to those in need. We provide:

- Food vouchers/parcels
- Assistance with utility bills
- Assistance with medical prescriptions
- Referrals to other agencies

Each case is individually assessed and assisted according to their needs and funds available.

**During 2018/2019 Emergency Relief has been provided to over 1,280 people.**



# **Aspleycare**

**is made up of the following groups of volunteers**

## **THURSDAY OUTINGS**

On the third Thursday of each month Aspleycare volunteers offer morning tea and entertainment for respite carers, the aged or disabled people living alone within our local community.

### **TRANSPORT**

Volunteers provide transport for those wishing to attend the Thursday outings. They assist the elderly and disabled into wheelchairs from cars and are an integral part of this event.

### **CATERING**

Volunteers provide morning tea for the Thursday Outings and for any other functions that are held by Aspleycare.

**Approximately 70 people attend these Thursday Outings each month.**



# Aspleycare

is made up of the following groups of volunteers

## WALKING WITH LOVE

**Volunteers** offer pregnant women immediate, practical help and provide support and love to women and their babies. Those in need do not require our judgment but acceptance and support.

**Walking With Love** has provided practical assistance to 160 women since starting in 2009.



# Aspleycare

is made up of the following groups of volunteers

## FRIDAY BREAD RUN

Volunteers collect unsold bakery items from Jacobs Bakery. These are then bagged and placed in Aspleycare freezers.

These items are given out as part of the food parcels and help booster the assistance provided by the Emergency Relief group.



# Aspleycare

is made up of the following groups of volunteers

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Aspleycare has been giving out Christmas Hampers for years and years to needy families. Many parish and non-parish organisations donate goods for the hampers which include items such as tinned food, toys food vouchers and even Christmas cakes and puddings.

**Over 120 hampers will be given out in December 2019.**



# Aspleycare

is made up of the following groups of volunteers

## FRIENDS OF ASPLEYCARE

Volunteers raise funds by organizing local events (fetes, sausage sizzles, art unions, etc) and donations.

## THE ASPLEYCARE ENDOWMENT FUND

The concept of the Aspleycare Endowment Fund evolved from the meetings of Friends of Aspleycare. Interest from this endowment further assists the work of the Aspleycare Emergency Relief group.

**The Friends of Aspleycare have completed 124 sausage sizzles at Bunnings and by the end of 2019 will have completed 130 sizzles in 11 years, raising around \$138,000 for Aspleycare Emergency Relief.**



# OUR BENEFACTORS

***The Quota Club of Sandgate*** who for the past 16 years have conducted trivia nights each year with all proceeds being donated to Aspleycare Emergency Relief.

***The Rotary Club of Aspley*** who for over 11 years have been providing significant financial donations to assist with the purchase of food, etc. for Aspleycare's annual Christmas Hamper Program and other "Care and Concern" projects.

***Bunnings Carseldine*** who for over 11 years have provided Aspleycare volunteers with the opportunity to conduct over 125 sausage sizzles which have raised substantial funds for Aspleycare. Also, during this time Bunnings Carseldine each year have donated laundry baskets, sporting goods, etc. for Aspleycare's annual Christmas Hamper Program.

***Ray White Aspley*** who each year for the past 8 years through their Little Ray of Giving Initiative have donated up to 250 gifts/toys and significant food items for Aspleycare's annual Christmas Hamper Program. Each year they also have greatly assisted Aspleycare with many food, cash and blanket donations.

***Grand Prix Mazda Aspley*** who over the past 10 years have made generous financial donations to assist the Aspleycare Emergency Relief Program.



# **ASPLEY-CARE 2020 and BEYOND**

*Aspleycare* is always reviewing and investigating new ways to improve the services offered to those in need. Currently we are looking at obtaining frozen meals, frozen meat, fruit and vegetables to provide an improved source of care to those who require assistance.

We have also improved our financial position by depositing funds into the Aspleycare Endowment Fund ensuring that we obtain a maximum rate of return on our investment.

***We are inspired by those who established Aspleycare and we strive to ensure that we serve those in our local community who require assistance irrespective of race and religion.***



# 10. St Vincent de Paul

Jenny Ferris

- There are six teams of two people
- Provide home help
- Mantra: *help out, not hand out.*
  
- Future plans: Visiting the Lonely people in homes and nursing homes,  
People who do not have relatives.  
Providing resources for use between visits.

# 11. Family Groups

Kate O'Donnell



## Report 25 Years of Family Groups in The Parish of Our Lady and St Dympna

# Formation

7<sup>th</sup> February 1993, parishioners were allocated to eleven family group with selected leaders and each family group of about 20 to 25 members.

- Groups were made up of varied age groups
- Children formed a large part of groups and their activities
- Leaders were appointed by the PP
- Size of groups dictated by many functions being home-based

# Today

There are 5 active groups in the parish with a total membership of around 100

- With the exception of one group, the average age of members is over 65
- Recruitment of new members has been very poor
- Groups are now mainly within a narrow age band

# Activities

Groups meet around once per month

Each year we try to have an activity for all the groups and invite the parish as a whole

Functions often self-catered, home or park-based to contain cost

Groups decide on their own activities



# Structure

## Families that gather together, stay together

- The parish groups have an overall coordinator
- Each group has its own “Leaders, Coordinators or whatever” that works for them to maintain them and act as a central point of coordination
- There are no joining or membership fees
- Members decide their own program for the year with members taking on the running of a function they are happy with



# The Future

- Everyone is busy
- The time to plan for the future is today
- One day a month to build friendship is not a large commitment *but*
  - from a tiny acorn a mighty oak grows
- Family groups take time to gel and become a team (family)
- Consider getting a few friends together and starting your own group
  - network at school
- We're here to help you
  - **A FAMILY for ALL**

## 12. Aspley Classes for Seniors

### Harley Juffs

- Aspley Classes for Seniors (ACFS) is a joint ecumenical and community initiative of the Uniting, Catholic and Anglican Parishes here at Aspley.
- ACFS has been in operation for 25 years, with a formal MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) in place since 2006. The MoU was updated in 2016 by the Catholic Archdiocese legal adviser.
- The purpose of ACFS is *'to provide opportunities for learning in a wide range of subjects for citizens aged 50 years and above'*.
- Classes can be in the form of formal learning, common interest groups and exercises. Social interaction is an important outcome.

# Aspley Classes for Seniors

- Classes are offered on about 20 different topics, covering Painting, Craft, Music, Computers, Languages, Reading, Games and Exercise. Enrolments in the 4 terms this year have ranged from 175 to 215.
- Tutors and administrators are volunteers.
- Management Committee comprised of the 3 clergy (ex officio), Executive (ideally 1 from each Parish; I am the current Treasurer) and General Members (3 from each Parish, in our case Ruth Volter, Peter Hislop and Brian Hopewell).
- The Committee meets regularly here at St Dympna's.
- The organisation is financially independent of member parishes.

# 13. Prayer group

Jude Fernandez

- Meetings each Friday between 6.30 and 8.30 p.m.
- People attend from different parts of Brisbane
- Procedure for the prayer meetings:
  - Intentions, special prayers, study topics, reflections, bible studies
- Everyone shares in the Prayer meeting
- Work with Br Johnston when he visits.

# 14. Finance

Justin Bissell

- Deficit of \$30,000 in the last two years, after expenditure on major infrastructure items and programs.

# 15. Youth group

Sheldon Lopez

Powerpoint provided.

Outlined activities begun by leader Chris Goh

Chris Goh unable to continue in the role

Presentation of statistics on membership.

Findings from survey of their eight members

Need to develop this group and gain new members.

# 16. St Dympna's Social group

Nona Lord

- Formed 2019
- Holds discussions
- Primarily a social event
- Favourite Saint: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- New Project each month.

# 17. St Monica's Guild

Denise Griffiths

- Meeting of widows each month, with Mass,
  - celebrating lives of their husbands
- 44 members
- Ages: >100 =1; >90 = 8; >80 = “quite a few”
- No formal procedures or formal structure
- Providing support and visiting older members
- Need assistance in setting up tables and chairs in the Parish Hall

# 18. Altar Servers

## Katherine Brough

- Roster is prepared four times each year and sent to Parish office for inclusion in newsletter. One goal this year has been to represent current available altar servers by confirming contact details and availability, but there is constant change.
- In 2019, altar servers participated in sacramental celebrations, school masses and other events.
- There is a decline in numbers over the last few years, and it is difficult to complete the roster. Hence the term *volunteer* appears in the roster.
- Following the First Communion Sacramental Program this year, there are some new volunteers to serve at Mass. Training has taken place recently for new volunteers who also attend the school. Training at weekend masses is provided by more experienced servers acting as mentors.

# 19. Cleaners

Louise Dutton

- Need more people to assist with cleaning the church
- Vacuum cleaning is undertaken by the men, and they need more helpers
- Cleaning activities include, dusting, polishing, sweeping, etc.

# Other groups

- Friends of Aspley
- **Playgroup**
- Children's Liturgy

# The Plenary Council

Ian Dove



**Plenary Council 2020**

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

# Open Forum

- A. Questions arising from the Reports
- B. Questions associated with the Plenary Council
- C Your questions

# Prayer

Gracious God

You are the source of all life:

We praise you.

You are the source of rich diversity:

We delight in you.

With grateful hearts, we acknowledge  
the dedication of all those men and women  
upon whose efforts we continue to build.  
May your guiding presence give us courage  
to face the challenges that lie ahead.

***Grant us*** enquiring minds and listening hearts  
that we may deepen our understanding  
of the concerns of your people.

***Help us*** to discover new opportunities  
for leadership and service  
as we seek to live and promote  
your values of love, justice and peace.

***Hear our prayer...***

that, in walking the way of your truth,  
we may leave the imprint of your goodness  
throughout the world.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Thankyou

Fr John and the members of the Parish Leadership Team  
thank everyone here today,  
and would you please show your appreciation  
for our presenters.

Thankyou also to MC: Iva Spanevello