**Report of the Joint Parish Pastoral Council (JPPC) for the Year 2020 – 2021 for the Annual Parish Meetings**

The JPPC met three times this year in what has been a year of unusual circumstances. The role of the JPPC is to link with the SLT and the parishes in a strategic overview to benefit all parishes.

At each of the meetings there were reports from activities that were established in the previous year and are continuing to function e.g. Alpha and also from new initiatives that were set up as a response to COVID such as the on line Bible Study and Lectio Divina prayer group.

It was decided that as the year was fraught with difficulties the members of the current JPPC would extend their period of service for another year as this would give an opportunity, hopefully, for the group to further its strategic work.

As part of the Divine Renovation/ parish renewal initiative, the three parishes conducted a survey in 2019 looking at the following 3 areas of parish life.

- Welcome

- Faith

- Evangelisation

We received 375 responses across all age ranges and varying lengths of time in the parishes from just a few months to over 10 years.

Some of the key points that came out of the survey include:

* Most people felt welcomed in their parishes, but this did not appear to be linked to participation within the parish or knowing other parishioners.
* Faith is important to parishioners but many were not happy to speak about their faith to others.
* A large proportion of parishioners did not answer the questions on evangelisation. Where this question was answered 41% felt they had no idea about evangelisation. Of those who did answer the question, some felt it occurred in a variety of ways, but most stated that it occurred within the family rather than outside the home.

Although parishioners felt generally welcomed, exploring new ways of encouraging parishioners to become more active in parish life should bring a greater sense of belonging within our parishes.

Although faith is important to people, we need to explore ways of working together as a community, and speaking and encouraging each other about our faith so that we feel confident to speak to others about what Jesus the church means to us in our lives.

The parishes as a whole, seem to be less confident in evangelisation. As this is what every Christian is called to do, we need to have a better idea of how to incorporate this into our lives. Fr Shaun and Fr Damian have preached on this at Sunday Mass over the past year and have worked hard to initiate programmes for developing, exploring and growing in our faith.

All of these areas, welcoming, faith and evangelisation are starting to be addressed through Alpha, discipleship groups, and prayer groups.

A key piece of work that has grown out of the work on developing a mission statement completed by the JPPC last year (2019 – 2020) has been the setting up of an on- line mission called Kairos. This hopes to further develop the key message of our parishes to Encounter Jesus and Serve Others by growing in our faith and connecting in our community. The opportunity for us to interact as a community has been challenging this year due to the Covid pandemic. However, the installation of livestreaming and the use of zoom have enabled much of this work to continue which has been well supported.

Thank you

( Maggie Stacey Feb 2021)