

# The Lefevre Catholic Community Parish Pastoral Council



## Annual Report 10 March 2024

### Background

After many years without a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Fr Roderick implemented in 2021, nominations for parishioners to serve on a newly established PPC. Our first meeting was on 12 March 2021. The PPC meets every third Thursday of the month (Feb – Nov) in the parish hall, Semaphore, 7pm – 8.30pm.

### Members (March 2023 – March 2024)

Fr Roderick  
Gael Little (Chair)  
Irene Bushnell  
Andrew and Marijana Levak (alternate attenders)  
Frank De Tullio (OLV School principal)  
Angela Scodella (Dominican school principal)

### What is a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)?

Parish Pastoral Councils are bodies that were strongly recommended by the Bishops of the Second Vatican Council. Our role as members of the PPC is to support our Parish Priest in sharing the responsibility for building a vibrant, caring, and welcoming community, focused on living the Gospel of Jesus in word and action.

Our goal is to serve our Parish community through:

- Listening and responding to the hopes, ideas, needs, and concerns of parishioners.
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and with each other.
- Encouraging and supporting the continued good work of existing groups and individuals within our Parish.
- Contributing towards making Parish decisions that reflect the Values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.

The Lefevre Catholic Community PPC is committed to respectful listening and discussion, generous contribution of professional and personal skills, and acting with integrity.

### Focus Areas and Outcomes for 2023

#### ❖ Website and Social Media (Facebook and Instagram)

This area has continued to be a major focus for the PPC. Chloe Watt is our website and social media manager. A report is provided by Chloe to every meeting of the PPC. Together with Carolyn and Chloe, much information has been added to the website in 2023. We are constantly reviewing and monitoring the website and social media platforms. The website continues to receive positive feedback and in 2023, 76% of visitors were new to the website and 24% were returning visitors.

Facebook and Instagram continued to grow slowly until June 2023 after which there was no significant increase in usage. In an attempt to increase usage, it has been agreed to improve personalization of this platform by increasing the number of photos of parish functions and of people being actively involved in their parish.

Stella Maris will also “tag” our parish website and social media with links to their website. Our two schools are already doing this.

## ❖ Building Community in our Parish

Pope Francis has urged us to be “builders of communities and be inclusive and welcoming to all.”

- **Welcome Packs:** After updating, the packs were delivered to new homeowners and our two parish schools.
- **Visitors’ Bookmarks:** These continue to receive very positive feedback from our visitors.
- **Youth:** Much thought and work has been undertaken by many individuals and groups over several years to try and attract more youth to our churches. The encouragement of youth in parish activities remains a challenge.
  - **World Youth Day 2023:** This annual event is celebrated in our archdiocese and parishes from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of August. Thanks to the PPC members, Marijana and Andrew Levak, Irene Bushnell and Frank DeTullio, our parish had a wonderful celebration with local youth in the OLV hall. There was an abundance of food, games and fun in the lead up to watching the World Youth Day service. Attendance was high and enjoyed by all.
- **Stewardship Renewal Program:** *“There was a very good level of support throughout the Stewardship Renewal processes. Members of Parish Staff, Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council were supportive and committed throughout the entire process.”* Page 5, Joe Abdilla’s Report.
- **Volunteers Day:** For the first time, PPC assisted the main organiser, Carolyn Watt, in the planning for the Parish 2023 volunteers, “Thank You” day. Feedback on the day, held at OLV, was very positive. The new format of having a Potato Van was very popular and attendance was high.
- **Volunteer’s Stories:** PPC initiated parishioners involved in parish groups to tell their stories of why they volunteer. Their responses were published in the parish bulletin, the website and social media. We did this to celebrate our volunteers and to encourage other to volunteer. This will be a continual program.
- **Bus trips:** Two of these took place in December 2023:
  - The Ladies Flying Solo group and the Rosary group together (about 18 people) went to lunch at a café in Brighton, then had a free time for a walk around the shops and the pier.
  - The local Vinnies group, 10 members, went to lunch at the Mary McKillop Precinct at Kensington.
  - Both trips were enjoyed immensely by those attending and there has been much interest for when the next trips will be. The bus costs from the Port Adelaide Enfield Council were \$335, a very reasonable cost for helping to build parish community connections. Thank you to the Finance Council for supporting this venture. *Sourced from Carolyn Watt’s report to the PPC 2024.*
- **Feedback from Finance Council:** The following feedback regarding support for our parish groups (besides the bus trips) has been received from the Finance Council. *“Moving forward, the PPC will need to have discussions, either in person or in writing, with every group in our parish (including all members of those groups) asking them how can the group be supported by the parish in the work that they do and get their ideas and suggestions. We set a timeframe for this to occur and for reporting back, sometime in the next year and we see what feedback we get”.* This was received in February 2024 and will be addressed at the PPC March meeting.

## ❖ Child Protection

Carolyn, our parish secretary, is our Child Safe Contact Person for the parish. She attends church training sessions and keeps the PPC informed via a monthly written report.

Carolyn also provides regular updates in the bulletin and is the first contact in the parish for any child safety queries. Carolyn is dedicated to this work and the PPC passed a resolution to fully support her in this critical role of the church. Thanks Carolyn.

In June 2023 we had a “Health Check” audit completed by the Training Officer from the Screening and Verification Authority (SAVA) of the Adelaide Archdiocese.

SAVA conduct these checks with Parishes every 3 years regarding the Working with Children Check processes and Parish record-keeping of our Location Register which contains all current details of all volunteers on Parish Rosters & Committees, all contractors, and all staff.

We received a 97% score – which is great.

*Source Carolyn Watt 15 June 2023 report to PPC.*

**Finally:** The PPC has enjoyed working together as a team and looks forward to further exploring our focus areas in 2024-25.

As chair of the PPC, I would like to thank Fr Roderick, Marijana and Andrew Levak, Frank DeTullio, Irene Bushnell, and Angela Scodella for their positive co-leadership and professional dedication throughout March 2023 – March 2024.

The PPC sincerely thanks Carolyn and Chloe Watt for their informative monthly reports and general support, and all parish staff assisting and supporting the PPC.

Kind regards to you all

Gael Little  
Chair PPC

