

The Lefevre Catholic Community Parish Pastoral Council



Annual Report 10 March 2024 - 23 March 2025

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

Deacon Tim, Gael Little (Chair), Andrew and Marijana Levak (alternate attenders), Frank De Tullio (OLV School principal), Sean Perry (Acting Principal OLV, Term 1), Angela Scodella (Dominican school principal), Rekha Lawrence, Vinod Joseph.

What is a Parish Pastoral Council?

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 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

❖ Website and Social Media (Facebook and Instagram)

Chloe Watt is our website and social media manager. A report is provided by Chloe for every meeting of the PPC. Together with Carolyn and Chloe, much information has been added to the website in 2024/5. We are constantly reviewing and monitoring the website and social media platforms. The website continues to receive positive feedback and usage is increasing. Facebook and Instagram also continue to grow. Based on feedback we have increased the number of photos of parishioners involved in parish activities.

The Dominican school electronic sign is constantly used by the parish to advertise Mass times plus an extra slide is provided for special times of the year eg. Easter.

❖ Building Community in our Parish

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

➤ Welcoming parishioners and visitors to our Parish.

- The parish has received many compliments from visitors re the warmth of the welcoming at all the churches.

- Social events continue to occur across the parish; Recognition of volunteers, morning teas, special celebrations, bus trips and lunches etc. While the PPC is involved in some of these, Carolyn in the front office is very dedicated in supporting all of the above, along with our social committee and all the parishioners who organise other social events across the parish. You are all an amazing, generous group of volunteers.
- Bus Trips: PPC continues to hear about the enjoyment and social interaction parishioners enjoy from these trips. Feedback continues to be highly positive and volunteer groups are now readily recommending trips. Next bus trips: the Rosary group to Virginia Nursery and the gardening team to Melba's chocolates at Angaston.

❖ **Lefevre Catholic Community Support Survey**

Opening Statement of Survey- "The PPC is appreciative of all the work and effort volunteers provide to assist us in our mission as a church. To support you and your groups we are asking for feedback to provide us with direction on how this can be improved."

Survey Questions:

1. How could the parish best support you and your group in your work?
2. To thank you for your work and efforts, would you like to be involved in:
 - bus trips and outings
 - Barbecues
 - Other - please specify

On request from parishioners the survey was extended to November 2024.

Other comments:

Twelve replies were very appreciative of the support they already receive across the parish and felt they were fully supported in their roles. Quotes- two examples. "We work together and are flexible and supportive to other. I appreciate your work doing all the steps to keep our parish together."

"Happy with the present parish support."

PPC acknowledges Deacon Tim, Carolyn and the Finance Council, who have all worked closely with the PPC to action survey requests.

❖ **Child Protection (Now called Safeguarding)**

- PPC attended updated training session by Orla Wright from Cathedral office.
- A Training and Safeguarding Pastoral Support Officer from the Integrity and Safeguarding Department has been assigned to our Parish. A parish visit will be arranged with Carolyn and Gael to bring us up to date with new procedures etc.
- PPC and Carolyn attended half-day Safeguarding Forum. Guest speaker was Fr Hans Zoliner, an internationally renowned Safeguarding expert. This was an excellent presentation which explored the essentials of effective Safeguarding and reflected on our shared responsibilities to nurture and sustain genuine cultures of safety within our church.

❖ **Training and Development**

- Training videos online for PPC
- Updated PPC handbooks, plus improvements in PPC practices, were provided by Deacon Tim.
- PPC have attended 100% of every Archdiocese meeting required.

Finally: The PPC has enjoyed working together as a team and looks forward to further exploring our focus areas in 2025-6.

As chair of the PPC, I would like to thank Deacon Tim, Fr Joash, Finance Council and parish staff for all their positive support of the PPC.

Kind regards to you all,

Gael Little
Chair PPC