

# The Lefevre Catholic Community Parish Pastoral Council



## Annual Report 26 March 2023

### 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)

### Members (March 2022 – March 2023)

Fr Roderick  
Gael Little (Chair)  
Ruby Tolja (overseas on study scholarship 2023)  
Daya De Los Santos (retired from PPC 2023)  
Andrew and Marijana Levak  
Frank De Tullio (OLV School)  
Paula Northeast (Dominican school) appointed February 2023

The PPC was well represented by both Ruby and Daya. They both made outstanding, positive contributions to our work. Thank you, Ruby and Daya.

## PPC Focus Areas March 2022 – March 2023: Actions and Outcomes

### ❖ Terms of Reference for the PPC

This was a major part of our work in 2022; reviewing and updating an older version to reflect our current context. The Terms of Reference are available on the website; they have a review date of May 2024.

### Background

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.

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

This area has continued to be a major focus for the PPC. Together with Carolyn and Chloe Watt, much information has been added to the website. We are constantly reviewing and monitoring the website and social media platforms. Many positive comments have been received regarding the website. Chloe is our website and social media manager; a report is provided by Chloe to every meeting of the PPC. The website continues to increase in use monthly and social media usage is also slowly increasing.

The PPC has received feedback that some parishioners would like to access the website and social media but are unsure how to do this. At our last meeting it was decided a website and social media training session would be held for the parish. Marijana and Chloe have kindly offered to run this training session and it will be held on April 23rd in our parish meeting room. This training session will be advertised to all parishioners. It is already on the website. Thank you to Marijana and Chloe for volunteering to run this session.

## ❖ Building Community in our Parish

This focus area in 2022/23 came from the Parish Survey and the Western Deanery meeting in 2022 attended by myself and Sr. Marie. Pope Francis has urged us to be “builders of communities and be inclusive and welcoming to all.”

### Actions:

- We have increased the number of parishioners volunteering to be welcomers and to serve morning teas.. We have developed “Welcoming Protocols” with the main aim to be cheerful and joyful when welcoming.
- The Welcomers aim to ensure all newcomers to our churches, as well as regular parishioners, are personally welcomed to Mass and invited to church events e.g. morning teas.
- We are mindful of already existing groups in our parish and openly value and support their ongoing volunteer work.
- The PPC and Carolyn (Parish Secretary) organized this year’s volunteers thank you lunch: 72 people attended and eight apologies were received on the day. A big thank you to Frank De Tullio for the use of the OLV Veritas Centre. Feedback was very positive from volunteers re this day.
- **Welcome Packs:** The packs have been updated for 2023 and Fr Roderick has led us in thinking about different ways to reach families that have recently moved to our parish. Fr Roderick recommended that we visit the new Fort Largs and Fletcher Slip housing developments and give new home owners Welcome Packs. More packs will be made and delivered to the new home owners by the PPC in April/May 2023. Our schools also have copies of the Welcome Packs.
- **Visitors’ Bookmarks:** A parishioner suggested to the PPC that we duplicate a Visitors Welcome Bookmark she was given when she visited a Victorian church. The PPC, Chloe and Fr Roderick made some changes and the PPC approved them for printing. These Welcome Bookmarks have received very positive feedback from visitors with the main comment being “We were noticed and felt special.” Thank you to the parishioner for approaching the PPC with this great suggestion.
- **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.

## ❖ 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.

## ❖ Acknowledgement of Country

To begin PPC meetings, we always have an opening prayer followed by an 'Acknowledgement of Country.' The PPC discussed and decided that we needed a short, printable version of an Acknowledgement of Country on the website for groups in our parish to use at their meetings. We researched approved wordings for the Adelaide area and decided on a short version based on one used by the University of Adelaide.

**"We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kurna people, the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we gather."**

The PPC will trial this for three months from March 2023, on the website and with other church groups, before a final version is formally adopted.

**Conclusion:** The PPC has enjoyed working together as a team and look forward to further exploring our focus areas in 2023-24.

As chair of the PPC, I would like to thank all members for their positive and professional dedication to our work throughout March 2022 – March 2023

Kind regards to you all

Gael Little  
Chair PPC