

# Parish Pastoral Council's Work Plan 2023-27

## What is this document about?

St Mary of the Angels Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has a Work Plan for 2023-27. Our Work Plan guides us on the work we will do from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2027. The work we do over this period will help us bring the voice of parishioners to the centre of the Parish. Our work will also help us to deliver the vision of St Mary of the Angels Parish outlined in our [Planning Day Report 2023](#).

Our work is designed around our aspirations, which include:

1. A spiritually fulfilled parish, actively participating in the celebration of the liturgy.
2. A genuinely connected and engaged parish community.
3. Respected and preserved facilities available for future generations.

## Understanding the PPC's 2023-27 Work Plan

The PPC's Work Plan is our guide and sets out timeframes for the delivery of activities we hope to achieve. This will help us track how we are going when it comes time to monitor and evaluate, and also keep us accountable to deliver the actions we say we want to deliver.

The Work Plan is built from the ideas and the suggestions that were raised by the parish community through the planning phase. This means we will aim to deliver work for parishioners, raised by parishioners.

This Work Plan will be reviewed every year with accountability on the PPC to report on how the parish has delivered on actions. Input from parishioners will also be sought to complement this ongoing cycle of monitoring and evaluation, and further planning days will be held to inform future Work Plans. Activities may be added to the Work Plan, but must demonstrate alignment to our aspirations and priorities. Any additional activities or actions will be reported in the yearly review for transparency.

## Our Vision

With Jesus Christ as the centre point of our faith, and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the members of St Mary's Parish Family strive to live out their Baptismal Commitment as disciples – faithful to the Word of God; to the sacraments, and to nurturing spiritual growth within the community.

## Work Plan 2023-27 at a glance

Our Aspirations	Our Priorities	Work we will focus on
1. A spiritually fulfilled parish, actively participating in the celebration of the liturgy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase parishioner attendance, reach, and numbers</li> <li>● Introduce liturgical support and planning</li> <li>● Increase accessibility of the mass</li> <li>● Enhance opportunities to attract and retain youth attendance</li> <li>● Improve opportunities to train and develop volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reintroduce a liturgy committee</li> <li>● Reintroduce Children's Liturgy</li> </ul>
2. A genuinely connected and engaged parish community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase opportunities to engage families and the local community</li> <li>● Promote diversity and inclusion in services available and support the visibility of diverse cultures in the parish</li> <li>● Improve and increase services and supports that benefit the Geelong community</li> <li>● Provide ongoing care, safety and support for parishioners to be involved in parish life</li> <li>● Improve how information is shared and communicated, meeting the communication needs of all parishioners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Highlight how parishioners connect with parish committees</li> <li>● Refresh bulletin</li> <li>● Review social media presence</li> </ul>
3. Respected and preserved facilities available for future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhance the appearance of parish facilities</li> <li>● Improve how parishioners can contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the parish</li> <li>● Improve disability access and support an aging community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review accessibility of the Basilica and the mass</li> <li>● Establish a mechanism for maintenance suggestions</li> </ul>

## Our focus for 2023-27

### A spiritually fulfilled parish, actively participating in the celebration of the liturgy.

#### Reintroduce a liturgy committee:

Reintroduce a liturgy committee to help address a number of priority areas and provide an avenue for parishioners to raise concerns or make suggestions about the mass (such as introducing languages other than English in the mass). This will reduce the effort required of parish office staff to respond to queries. It will also capture queries across multiple mass times with equal representation on the committee and will support engagement of more parishioners in parish life.

This action can be implemented in the short term, with a committee (of approximately 5 people) to be selected by the Parish Priest (with recommendations from the PPC and nominations from interested parishioners). The liturgy committee will develop a list of priority areas (with assistance from the PPC) to address Aspiration 1 and will provide updates on work completed and how these relate to the planning report.

	HIGH	MED	LOW
PRIORITY			
IMPACT			
EFFORT			

#### Reintroduce Children's Liturgy

Reintroducing children's liturgy at the 11am mass will support families with young children to be engaged in the mass and make attendance more accessible for families. Children's liturgy was running effectively pre-COVID with great interest from parents and children in its ongoing operation.

This action should be implemented in the short term in response to ongoing need, while the impact on the 11am mass families will be high, across the parish the impact is lower. This action includes identifying sufficient volunteers (approximately 8 people), managing a roster, ensuring all safety checks (working with children) are valid, and ensuring facilities and resources are adequate.

	HIGH	MED	LOW
PRIORITY			
IMPACT			
EFFORT			

### A genuinely connected and engaged parish community.

#### Highlight how parishioners connect with parish committees

Improve the visibility of active parishioners and how people can get involved. This action includes displaying the names (and photos where consent provided) of the PPC and finance committees (and future liturgy committee etc.). The aim is to clarify

how people can engage with their peer representatives and also build the profiles of those in the parish who volunteer their time.

This action can be implemented in the medium term, it requires an audit of committees, gaining permission and collecting photos of members, developing displays (hard copy and for online use), and installing/publishing these displays.

	HIGH	MED	LOW
PRIORITY			
IMPACT			
EFFORT			

**Refresh bulletin**

The PPC regularly receives feedback on the design and accessibility of the Bulletin, noting that it can seem crowded and has not been updated in some time. Given the bulletin is published weekly on a tight timeframe, changing the bulletin format regularly is not feasible. Having a small design group established can ensure this work is undertaken in the background and only when a final format is established be updated.

This action will be implemented in the medium term. This requires a small sub-group to be established, who will gather examples of bulletins and newsletters, and workshops to redesign the layout. There also needs to be appropriate consideration given to the advertising requirements and accessibility.

	HIGH	MED	LOW
PRIORITY			
IMPACT			
EFFORT			

**Review social media presence**

A high priority of the PPC is to attract younger people to the parish and to connect with them in the ways and on the platforms that they use.

This action will be implemented in the long term. This action requires proficiency in social media apps and digital marketing. Social media content would need to be approved by parish office staff/parish priest but could be scheduled and prepared a month in advance. However, online engagement (responding to messages etc.) cannot be scheduled and there would need to be consideration around how approved messaging/words are released to the public.

	HIGH	MED	LOW
PRIORITY			
IMPACT			
EFFORT			

**Respected and preserved facilities available for future generations.**

**Review accessibility of the Basilica and the mass**

This action includes re-establishing the accessibility reference group that existed prior to COVID, with a focus on disability accessibility and inclusion as well as ensuring safety and accessibility of an ageing congregation. This sub-group can provide guidance and advice to the PPC and finance committees on suggested projects and programs (such as an accessibility audit).

This action will be delivered in the long term. While establishing an accessibility sub-group will not take significant time to progress (can be delivered in the short term), developing plans, contracting accessibility audits and completing any works may require significant resourcing (time and money).

	HIGH	MED	LOW
PRIORITY			
IMPACT			
EFFORT			

**Establish a mechanism for maintenance suggestions**

Many parishioners have expressed interest in the facilities of the Basilica, this action includes making it easier for parishioners to make simple maintenance suggestions and provide a mechanism to alert to any faults (cracked tiles, missing pew kneelers, chipped paint etc.). Maintenance suggestions can be directed to a central point, which can be advertised in the Basilica narthex and on the website.

This action will be delivered in the short term to introduce the mechanism for making suggestions. However, the ability to deliver suggestions will be ongoing over the period of this Work Plan.

	HIGH	MED	LOW
PRIORITY			
IMPACT			
EFFORT			