

Social Justice Report 29th July 2020

First not really Social Justice but an exciting email from Alison Weeks who is the Chair of the Holy Spirit Parish Pastoral Council in Gungahlin:

Dear Parish Council Chairs,

Thank you all so much for agreeing to join a loose network of PPC chairs from our Archdiocese. So far, we have 18 names from 32 invitations, which is pretty good really. While there are over 50 parishes, some of the smaller rural parishes fall under an umbrella "mission" administration, so the total comes down to around 30.

In terms of privacy, I have taken your responses as an implicit agreement to sharing your details, especially your email address. Hence I have attached a list of names, email addresses, and parishes. Now we all have the same information.

When it warms up and COVID rules allow, I am hoping we might get together for a BBQ or lunch and a chat before sharing a Saturday evening Mass. But at the moment that is some way off!

There have been times over the last three years when I have felt a little isolated when confronted with tasks or problems at parish level. I have often wondered how other parishes were approaching a particular issue. I am hoping that we can share that information, and especially any practical experience someone has already had with a specific problem or goal.

For example, there are two big issues occupying the minds of our PPC at the moment:

- 1. How to nurture, support and encourage our parish community in a pandemic (and post-pandemic) world. In the past we have relied on big parish functions to bring our people together, sharing touches and hugs and food, music, games and cake stalls. Always remaining 4 square metres apart, what can we do now to nourish that all important and cherished sense of community - so that our people continue to feel valued members of our parish? How can we re-ignite the joy of community?*
- 2. How to achieve the laudable goal of a cashless collection when parishioners still value the act of giving as part of their Mass and when many of the cultures in our parish have widely varying attitudes to banks, credit cards and direct debits? We also face challenges with the potential losses of the Easter and Christmas cash collections and the long run implications for donations when children no longer experience the act of putting coins into the collection basket at Mass every week.*

So, that's what I am interested in at the moment and I would appreciate any advice, experience or innovative ideas you have come up with in your parishes. Or just to chat about them! I also hope to learn a lot as we go, especially from parishes very different from ours.

Please feel free to throw your own issues and challenges up for discussion – in the hope and belief that someone else has already solved that problem!

I wish you all well and look forward to hearing your ideas,

Warm regards and welcome,

Alison Weeks

Chair

Holy Spirit, Gungahlin

Really interesting and relevant to discussions we have been having in St Augustine's parish and exciting that we can collaborate with like-minded people with a variety of skills and life-experience to help us achieve our own parish outcomes.

Dates coming up: Season of Creation 1st September- 4th October

106th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2020 Sunday 27th September