

## Social Justice Report 9th September 2020

Sorry, I have done very little on the Social Justice side of things, all the more reason I should get the Duty Statement up and in my face!

The ACBC Social Justice Statement on Mental Health: To Live Life to the Full has been launched; it is a compelling read and is available at: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Social-Justice-Statement-2020-WEB.pdf>

The statement touches on many areas of concern in our community and I am very happy to organise a discussion around the document e.g. a Kitchen Table Conversation, if there is sufficient interest in the parish.

Celebrations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Laudato Si continue throughout September with the launch of Seasons of Creation on 1<sup>st</sup> September. It concludes on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, the Feast Day of St Francis. Perhaps a wonderful way to celebrate would be with an outdoor Mass on this Sunday and a blessing of the animals. The Murrumbateman Rec ground would be a great location for this as it has a stage area for the altar and people could bring their folding chairs and socially distancing sit around it. It is also available on this date at this time. I am happy to coordinate this if there is enthusiasm for it in the Parish, it is a possible moment of joy for the beauty of creation that begins to address the ACBC Social Justice Statement 2020: To Live Life to the Full-

*As creatures made in the image and likeness of God we stand before the mystery of The Transcendent. We feel deeply connected to something, and indeed Someone, beyond ourselves. These bonds of loving relationship to one another, to all of creation, and to the Creator of all that is, help us to experience meaning in life, even in its sufferings and limitations. These are key ingredients for good health in body, mind and spirit. They point to the quality of personal and social relationships that promote the fullness of life for all. (p4)*

An outdoor Mass ties in with the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Laudato Si*, the Social Justice Statement 2020 and our nascent journey with the Indigenous nations in our parish. There are great liturgical resources available to support the Mass on 4<sup>th</sup> October

World Day of Migrants and Refugees is on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020- last year we had a Circle of Silence, CAPSA and ACRMO have not yet release ideas for a coordinated response this year.

On a different note there has been discussion between our Archdiocesan Parish Councils about the most effective way to use the Electronic payment systems such as "Tap and Go". The following response to a question that was asked came from the North Belconnen and it is particularly insightful.

***My thoughts for your second questions about **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.*****

Once again try to *achieve the same result through different means*. Not all parishioners will go cashless which is the reality due to various reasons. The aim is to still to raise funds for the Parish right so saying 'No' money is going against it. All you can do is:

- *Put in place safety process for handling Cash.*
- *Communicate about why Cashless is better and should be taken up by priest.*
- *Put comms in bulletin.*
- *Continue to remind them*
- *Promote and Use the 'Tap & Go'*
- *Have someone 'remind' parishioner about donating through 'Tap & Go' When they come in. You are training your parishioner To build up new habit.*
- *The more you convert parishioner to using 'Tap & Go' And plan giving, the more others will see and follow. Long process but it works. Just got to be patient and constantly remind parishioner. I know it can be a bit 'In your face' method but if you explain to the parishioner What the donate helps. They will understand.*

*At our Parish, it was a very slow up take for the 'Tap & Go' And plan giving but now we see a lot more people use the 'Tap & Go' either when they come in or when they walk out.*

*I hope this has helped you come up with your own strategies to deal with your challenge.*

This may be something we wish to discuss further at our next meeting.