



**PARISH PASTORAL
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER AUGUST
2017**

**FOR ST MICHAEL'S PARISH
COMPRISING:**

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BERRY
SACRED HEART CHURCH BOMADERRY
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CULBURRA
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH KANGAROO VALLEY
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NOWRA
HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH VINCENTIA

WHAT IS A PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL?

A Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is made up of representatives from the clergy and lay people within the Parish, seeking to help parishioners discover and use their unique gifts, and work together to carry forward the mission of Jesus Christ.

HOW THE NEW PPC WAS FORMED

Our parish is unique in having a number of faith communities, each with its own history and identity, and yet always united as one Parish. There are local leadership groups in Berry, Bomaderry, Culburra, Nowra and Vincentia. Each leadership group has been formed through a combination of open invitations and personal invitations to parishioners, and meets regularly.

By 2017 a leadership group had been established in each community and it was the right time to establish a new PPC.

WHO IS ON THE PPC?

Two representatives were selected by each community leadership group to join the PPC for its first term:

Berry:	Barry McAndrew & Roland Tudor
Bomaderry:	Ivor Davies & Carole Ward
Culburra Beach:	Pep Palucci & Harry Ray
Nowra:	Nigel Porter & Bernadette Pullen
Vincentia:	Brian McCarron & Alan Burrows

These joined the following “ex-officio” members to form the current PPC:

Fr Pat, Fr Leo, Fr Duane, Deacon Peter Presdee, Sister Sue Barker (one of our Good Samaritan Sisters), **Melissa Mazzo** (one of our Parish Secretaries), **Sandra Hogan** (Principal of St John's High School), **Lindy Nelson** (Assistant Principal of St Michael's Primary School).



THE VISION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR ALL PARISHES

The PPC has decided to adopt for its vision the following statement from Pope Francis, from his letter “The Joy of the Gospel” (paragraph 28):

“The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be “the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters”. This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.”

May this be the shared vision of all of us!

THE NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY (NCLS)

In late 2016, parishioners completed the “NCLS” during Masses. We are most grateful for your responses. The data has been collated by NCLS headquarters, and the PPC and local leadership groups will be seeking to communicate the results to you all, and use the results to help us move together toward our Parish vision.

WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU – AND TO HEAR FROM YOU!

There will be at least four meetings of the PPC each year. After each PPC meeting a newsletter will be provided to all parishioners to keep you updated. If you’d like to know more, or have any ideas you’d like to share for our parish, please contact a member of the PPC. If you don’t know your local representatives you can contact the Parish Office to get their details.

If you would like to get more involved in any area of Parish life, please speak with one of our priests, they would love to hear from you!

Please keep your new Parish Pastoral Council in your prayers.

The next PPC meeting is in September.