



ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B

4th February 2018

MISSION STATEMENT: Our Parish Pastoral Council has for a few years been discerning the value of a Parish Mission Statement (PMS). This has taken time, reading and discussion. And during this discernment process, thoughts about a mission statement have also been accompanied by thoughts about a Parish Vision Statement.

The difference between these is that a mission statement is very practical in its scope. It focuses on what you will accomplish and how you will do it. A vision statement is designed to be more abstract, focusing on the future and more in the context of the global church. The distinction is subtle, and many parishes end up combining the two. But for our own purposes, the mission statement is the primary objective. A vision statement may follow later.

The reasons for mission statements often vary. Some may be more concerned with stating unified goals, while others may be more of a business style with reference to purpose, scope, "product" and delivery. Others may provide emphases to various parish apostolates.

Mission statements need to be practical in nature. It would be nice to eradicate poverty in the world but that is far beyond the resources of a parish or even a national superpower. Rather than trying to eradicate poverty in the world, a mission statement may simply identify something more attainable like the delivery of groceries to needy families in the parish. Periodically, the objectives of a mission statement need to be assessed to ensure that the efforts of our parishioners are making a difference.

"We might at times think we are pretty wise and proud of it. This happens mostly when our decisions bring visible success and prosperity. But when we experience failure we tend to question ourselves and our decisions. In success it is easy to become over-confident, and in failure the temptation to doubt oneself increases.....What is needed is a faith that seeks understanding, not a doubting mind that questions the wisdom of God. May the Lord grant us such faith!

Books are available from the Piety Stall in the Chapel for \$12. There are only 20 available but more can be ordered if demand is strong. They are ideal for preparation for Mass, Eucharistic Adoration or simply to be read at home as a way of assisting personal prayer.

A mission statement should not change every few years; it needs to be formulated carefully, and with the potential to be linked to a vision statement. It should not be lengthy. In our PCN (weekly bulletin) next week, a draft of our own mission statement will be included.

Sacrament of Penance Programme

The programme continues this week with the selection of workshops. Parents will need to provide their preferences and try to be flexible. It is not possible to assign every family to the workshop of their first preference.

The books have now been ordered so it is no longer possible to accept newcomers. Parents are also reminded that one of the requirements of the programme is to have a presence at Mass with their sons and daughters.

The process of preparation for First Penance requires families to have a genuine experience of our worshipping community as a pathway to the First Holy Communion. Please feel most welcome to direct inquiries to Father Michael or Father Joe or midweek to the parish secretary.



ASH WEDNESDAY: Advance notice that Ash Wednesday falls this year on 14 February. In terms of practical commitment and outward expression of our own personal discipleship, it is obviously one of the more important days of the year. More details will be provided in next week's PCN.



READERS MEETING: Reminder to our readers of the meeting this coming Tuesday at 7:00 PM. All readers encouraged to attend



Regional Farewell to Bishop Peter Ingham

Mass will be celebrated in our own Church by Bishop Peter at 7:30 PM this coming Wednesday 7 February. Clergy and parishioners will be in attendance from other parishes in the Western Macarthur and the Southern Highlands. Your presence would be appreciated and endearing to the Bishop.



Work Needed

Lady in the parish seeking indoor part time professional work in the form of ironing, cooking, light cleaning, and so on. Reference available. Please contact Father Michael if able to offer work, or aware of anyone requiring domestic support.



Requiem Masses

Many parishioners, especially those who have reached a venerable age, would have attended dozens of funerals over the years in various churches, seemingly everywhere. In our own parish, funerals are invariably occasions of solemnity and deep reverence; they are enhanced enormously with the beauty of carefully selected sacred music. We're blessed to have such highly accomplished parishioners. It is quite noticeable that this deeply spiritual experience brings comfort and reassurance to the family members and close friends of the deceased. Periodically in coming months, more information and ideas about the Requiem Mass will be produced in our PCN.