

Corinda Graceville Catholic Parish

Parish Assembly Report

'On our Parish Journey Led by the Spirit'...

After many unavoidable delays we gathered on Sunday, 17 July 2022 for our first Parish Assembly, with a focus being on a Parish journey of faith into the future. The three main aims for the Assembly were to:

1. Share information and data on our place in this area.
2. Share information about our Parish's financial position.
3. A time of prayerful and respectful listening to what the people assembled want for our Parish to do and to become.

We do not see the way ahead clearly and have prayed to the Holy Spirit to lead us on our way. Our Parish Prayer has inspired us on this journey. Together as a Parish we have now commenced discerning what paths the Spirit is

opening before us and will continue listening, learning and planning together. We see our Parish through setting the **Parish Journey Led by the Spirit Five Year Strategic Plan**, which will occur over the next 12 months, will assist us develop 'effective leadership and direction', plus set integrity, accountability, transparency, inclusivity, applying effective risk management practices, active engagement and communication for this community.

'On our Parish Journey Led by the Spirit' Parish Assembly Report provides a path for our Parish to walk. It outlines our potential purpose and objectives for the future, an outline of what we learnt, celebrate what is valuable within our Parish, through to establishing short-and long-term plans.

Pope Francis speaks of Parish life...

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of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 evangelises, 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".

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #28

Our Parish Assembly Learnings

Key outcomes from the Parish Assembly was to listen to the voices of those who walk with us, practice the art of listening, listen to the diversity of thought and do this with an openness of heart. Leading us to find the right path, creating the desire to respond fully to God's love and to bring to fruition what has been sown at our Parish Assembly through this first-step on our journey.

What you value?

- Strong commitment to Parish and four-Masses each weekend, which will remain in place while Clergy, mass attendance numbers and Ministry support is available to support this Mass schedule.
- Parish Community and hospitality (e.g. gatherings like Feast of Nations)
- Understanding financial stability and asset ownership of the Parish, which has been created through strong leadership of past and current Clergy through the wise leadership of the Parish Finance Committee. Plus understanding that the Parish is slowly eating into reserve funds

- Parish Liturgies for key celebrations (Christmas and Easter Triduum).
- Music Liturgy is suitable – although opportunities to grow to support evangelisation of whole-of-parish community.

What we need to do differently?

The Parish Assembly provided information for discernment, how we listen to this input and then apply this into a future focused Plan. Outlined below are **planned short-and long-term goals for our Parish**, which will be flexible and adaptable to the changes we need to transition through, as the recommendations from the Australian Plenary Council will influence Parish life over the next two plus years. Thus, we will as a Parish evangelise and undertake self-renewal on **Our Parish Journey led by the Spirit**. This short-term plan captures a way forward and many of the long-term goals will be addressed into our future focused five-year strategic plan for the Parish.

Our Short-and Long-Term Goals

The following Plan sets-out a Parish Plan for the next 12 months. It gives us a direction, whereby we will journey with the Holy Spirit to work together as a Parish Community to grow and move forward as part of our self-renewal and ability to adapt, change and keep the Church living in the midst, of the Corinda Graceville community.

| Planned Outcome / Required Action | Short-Term (1 to 3 months) | Medium-Term (1 to 12 months) | Long-Term (Over next 5-years) |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Parish Pastoral Council <i>(Engaged in pastoral care activities in the parish. Guardians of the parish vision and ensure whole of parish initiatives are actioned.)</i> | | | |
| Parish Groups Annual Update (Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Liturgy Committee, Finance Committee) presented as a supplement to Parish Newsletter. <i>(July each year.)</i> <i>(As part of annual Assembly Program included annual update from St Vincent de Paul, The Atrium, Youth Group, RCIA Team, OSHC – St Josephs and Christ the King, Julia Cummings Centre, Schools)</i> | | √ | |
| Parish Pastoral Council Monthly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published in Parish Newsletter or delivered through a verbal update at weekend Parish Masses. Published on Parish Website. | √ | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Parish Committee Memberships notification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Noticeboards <i>(including photographs, contact details)</i>. Parish Website to include Parish Committee section with membership details. Open invitation to Parish Community to participate in Parish Committees, with strategy for a diverse and inclusive Parish Pastoral Council. Publish Parish Organisational structure, demonstrating interconnection of committees. | √ | | |
| Parish Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish on Parish Website with group profile and contact. | | √ | |
| Parish Advisory Team <i>(Small team that gathers to act as a ‘think tank’ for the parish priest to consult for information and advice on issues as they arise)</i> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Priest to form small advisory team. | √ | | |
| Parish Finances | | | |
| Parish Annual Finance Report presented to Parish in September each year. | √ | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Parish Half-Yearly Finance Report presented to Parish in March each year. | | √ | Ongoing |
| Plan Giving Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and study current trend of digital options for plate giving each weekend as well as for any other functions. Make recommendation on any changes to current program. The introduction of Parish Giving App to support current community transition to being a ‘cashless’ society. | | √ | |
| Parish Liturgy and Ministry | | | |
| Engagement through the Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate introduction of digital screens to support and encourage full participation and engagement throughout the Mass. | | √ | |
| Parish Time and Talent Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In growing our parish commitment and talent pool, complete a ‘Parish Time and Talent’ Survey to grow engagement of Parish Community into Parish life. | | √ | |
| Growing the vibrancy of Masses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an analyse of why Christmas and Easter Triduum Masses are so vibrant and attract stronger participation. Capture the essence of this vibrancy and make recommendations to connect this into key Parish Mass celebrations and the evangelisation of Parish life. | | √ | |

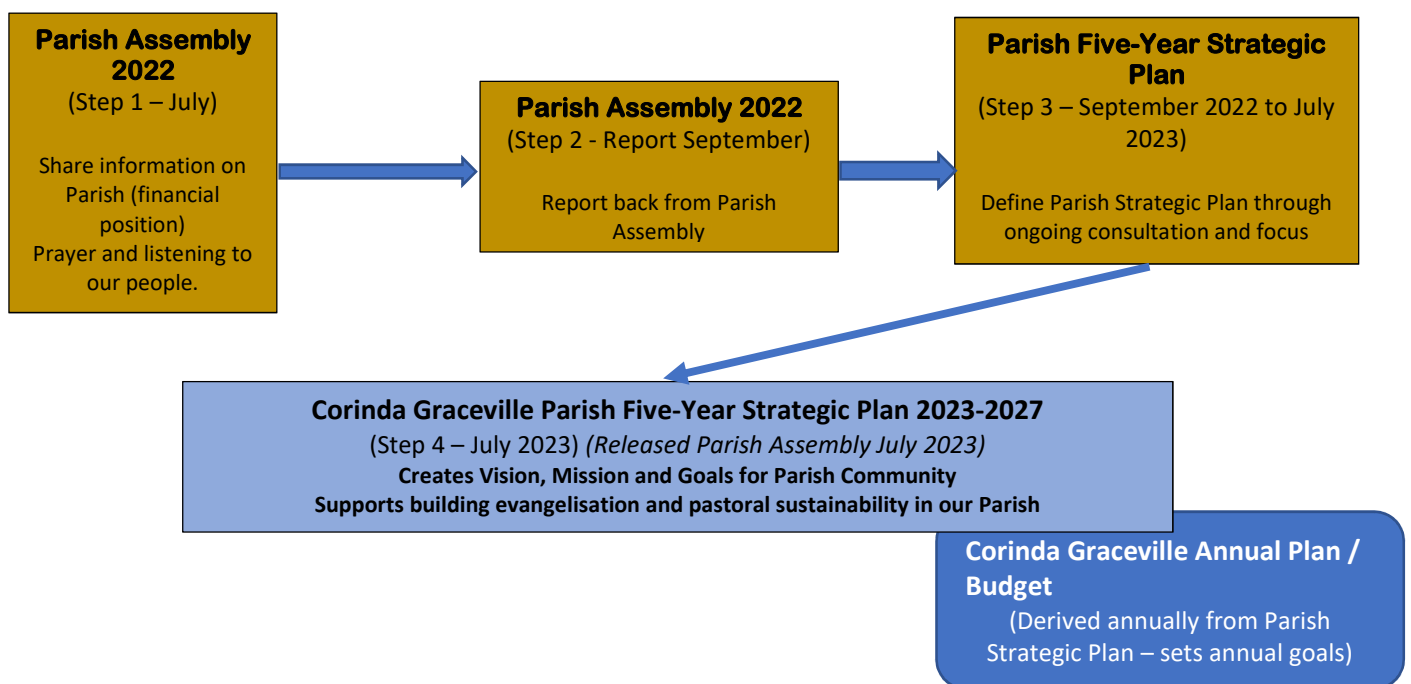
| Planned Outcome / Required Action | Short-Term (1 to 3 months) | Medium-Term (1 to 12 months) | Long-Term (Over next 5-years) |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Music Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a review of Music Liturgy with view for engaging with contemporary hymns, music for young people, integration of new music – not repetitive from year-on-year. | | √ | |
| Parish Community Relationships | | | |
| Parish Community and Gathering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Parish Community Events Calendar to re-establish Parish connections for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of Nations (19 September 2022) BBQs Morning Teas Coffee Mornings | √ | | |
| Families and Children at Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ways to make families with children welcomed and involved in the Mass. | | √ | |
| Welcoming Parish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuild and create a self-renewal of the Corinda Graceville 'community spirit'. Create a spirit whereby everyone is engaged and welcomed to each Mass – enabling a purpose of belonging. RCIA Program build and maintain connections with RCIA community, so they interconnect into Parish community. Study what is working and then integrate into ongoing programs. | | √ | |
| Multiculturalism - Diversity and Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong multicultural community – define ways to build and integrate this into Parish community. | | √ | |
| Parish and School Connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities where the Parish and school community can connect and build stronger relationships to open-up families to the wider Parish community, e.g. enrolment formation evenings, school fete. | √ | √ | |
| Adult Youth Children Formation | | | |
| Children and Youth Liturgies Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise resources through Evangelisation Brisbane to grow children and youth evangelisation within Parish, e.g. Advent and Lenten Programs. <i>(Includes identification of a Parish member or Group to lead program)</i> | √ | √ | |
| Parish Sacramental Program Review Undertake review of current program ranging from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish family's involvement cost of program why families are travelling outside of Parish for Sacramental Programs understanding what is delivered within Parish School Sacramental Curriculum. <p>Make recommendations on any required changes to Parish Sacramental Program to encourage full participation by Parish families.</p> | √ | | |
| Children and Youth Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current School Worship Policy to encourage stronger involvement of Parish School community in life of Parish. Review current Youth Program and identify new opportunities for inclusion into Parish community life. | | √ | |
| Youth Evangelisation and Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish digital Parish Youth Communication Program, e.g. Instagram for sharing of evangelisation messages and connection as a group. | | √ | |
| Adult Prayer and Discussion Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define re-introduction of focused prayer and discussion groups for Advent and Lent, etc. | | √ | |

Where to from here....

We are on a Parish journey and we are just at the starting line. The success of any planning is about involving the people who will make the plan come alive – **that is you as our Parish community**. Thus, we will be seeking feedback and input from you on your continuing ideas and knowledge on how we can transition forward and be that Parish that through its evangelisation, is continuing to take a self-renewal and constant adaptability to the social, cultural and environmental changes, which are influencing our Church. Feedback and input will be gratefully appreciated and can be either provided by speaking to Fr Mark Percival or through a new email address being set-up for the Parish Assembly. The details for this email address will be notified through the Parish Newsletter as soon as practicable.

Parish Journey Lead by the Spirit Strategic Plan Parish Framework

We have now commenced our journey. Our process sets the framework for us to build on our strong foundations as a Parish and to grow as missionary disciples. The Plan will outline our **Parish Vision, Mission and Values** statements, establish **strategies/outcomes and key actions** to implement the **planned outcomes**.



Our Framework Timeframe

| Current | Short-Term (1 to 3 months) | Medium Term (1 to 12 months) | Medium to Long Term (2 to 3 years) | Long-Term (Over next 5 years) |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Assembly (No.1) – 17 July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Parish Priest’s <i>discerned actions</i> Parish Assembly. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence process <i>Parish Journey Lead by the Spirit Five Year Strategic Plan</i>. Presented to Parish Assembly 2023. Parish Assembly (No.2) July 2023. Annual Planning Session sets Parish goals directed from strategic plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of <i>Parish Journey Lead by the Spirit Five Year Strategic Plan</i>. Parish Assembly (No.3) July 2024 receive report on Strategic Plan delivery and resets any new strategies, key actions. Annual Planning Session setting Parish goals directed from strategic plan ongoing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of 5-year period Strategic Plan review and reset. |

