



## The Archdiocese Presentation on The Local Church as Mission Communities

### “Take the Way of the Gospel”

Following on, from our previous gathering regarding the Re-imagining our local church as Mission Communities we gathered via Zoom for the southern region parishes (Braeside) which extended from Mentone all the way down the peninsula and across to Dandenong/ Endeavour Hills.

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the Southern Region, and the 9<sup>th</sup> the Archdiocese has undertaken.

We were welcomed by Fr. Joseph Caddy (The Vicar General) and Bishop Tony Ireland, our region's Bishop

Mission Why? : Disciples are always sent on mission

- The gospel imperative, disciples were sent out on training runs until the Great Commission, Jesus called followers who became disciples, who, then, were sent.
- Mission partners already exist -Caritas, CatholicCare, Vinnies, twinning O/S parishes etc.
- Now is the time to adopt that missionary spirit locally
- Ask the right Questions-informed by your experiences of “On the ground ministry”
- Ask how can we contribute to the mission of Jesus Christ and his Church in this area

The question continues that must be asked “Why is our Parish Diminishing”, we require change

We might ask of our local parish

- Is it in contact with the homes and lives of its people?
- Is it an environment for hearing God's word for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration?
- Does it encourage and train its members to be evangelisers
- Is it a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach?

### The Aim

The Effectiveness in sharing the Gospel, with Vibrancy, Vitality and Viability ensuring Equitable Sharing of resources

### What is Mission

A distinctive faith locality that lends itself to being lived out in family-like arrangements

- A local area with communities in History, Demographics, Geography
- A collaborative focus on Evangelisation, worship, formation and outreach
- A family of communities working together for vibrancy, vitality and viability

A recording of ministerial and material resourcing

- A leadership of at least two priests working as a team
- Intentional co-responsibility of all of the people of God
- Strategic and operational decision making with Lay Leadership
- A pooling and sharing of resources and administrative functions
- A move towards shared arrangements across communities

### What a mission is NOT

- Driven by clergy shortages or falling parishioner numbers
- Focused purely on data
- Creating centralised clerical leadership
- Aimed at closing down parishes
- A plan to take over parish assets and finances
- Aimed at destroying local community diversity and culture

**For our Parish:** Based on data from Location IQ, the model for us, is a mission network that includes Mornington, and Mount Eliza this is based on the initial logic put forward.

The Archdiocese sees this as a long-term approach with possibly 8-12 Missions being established over the next couple of years with a long-term view of 20 plus years.

The data presented was based on the 2016 Senses that 18.9% of the population was listed as Catholic and approximately 10% of these would have an involvement with the parish.

The viability of parishes to move into partnerships is the focus of the archdiocese. This would also consider local discernment as an important process driver. Including the clergy's workload as a consideration also.

### **The Next Steps (This Year)**

- **Pray** -Individually, Parish Communities, Archdiocese
- **Prepare**- Choose Parish Coordinators, meet to plan consultation process
- **Consult & Discern**-Offer Parish Information Sessions
- **Feedback**- What is emerging? What help is needed

### **2022 and beyond**

- **Consult & Discern**- Dialogue with parishes in notional mission grouping
- **Check-in**- Quarterly opportunity for regional mission discernment
- **Feedback**- What is emerging and what help do you need