

St Bernard's Parish Plan

November, 2002



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St Bernard's Mission Statement.

We the Catholic Church of St Bernard's Berowra are, through Baptism, a community of disciples of Jesus. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are committed to work together to extend the Kingdom of God.

Introduction

St Bernard's Parish Plan has been created to help guide the activities of the Parish over the next 3 years. The creation of the plan was driven by the Diocesan initiative to be considering the future and the changes in the modern Church.

As our Parish has gone through recent change the need for planning is now more relevant to us. As stated in the earlier remarks this plan is a guide to our future, if the Parish requires changes to be made to the plan then we can and will accommodate them.

The plan has used elements of the data that was gathered during the Berowra Consultation (kindly facilitated by the Diocesan team of Sister Kerrin & Michael Slattery). Along with information that was already available within the Parish regarding needs and activities.

The ultimate success of the plan will be determined by the level of participation from the members of the Parish. Please continue to help your fellow Parishioners in the life of the Parish. Your help will be greatly appreciated by one and all.

In this document the Parish Pastoral Council is referred to as PPC.

Also the Parish Priest is referred to as PP.

Mission Focus 1: Community Life & Mission

1.1 Preparing to Work together

Requirement: The Parish to develop a Parish Pastoral Plan to cover a period of three years using the outlined supplied by the Diocesan.

Current situation: The Parish Plan has been compiled and submitted

Needs: The Parish Pastoral Council to ensure that there is always good liaison between the council and the parish, during the planning process and the implementation of the plan.

Leadership needs: **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**

Target Date: **Plan Implementation is in progress.**

1.2 Proclaiming the Kingdom

Requirement: Parish to work with other local Christian communities to strengthen joint Christian evangelisation. Examine opportunities in the community & its media to bring the Christian message to the local area.

Current situation: Some interaction already in place at the Parish Priest (PP) level. Currently very little other organised activity, previously there was a co-ordinator in this role

Needs: Re-appoint a co-ordinator to open up the lines of communication between the other Christian communities with in our Parish. + look at the media options

Leadership needs: **Co-ordinator to be appoint + PP + PPC**

Target Date: **June 2003**

1.3 Engaging Liturgy

Requirement: Establish a liturgy committee.
Ensure there is adequate training available for Parishioners with in the Parish to allow for continued development in all the ministries related to the mass.

Current situation: Liturgy committee currently been formed
Spasmodic training supplied.

Needs: Formalise a liturgy committee; *special emphasis on music in the mass.*
Continued emphasis on the revitalisation of the children's liturgy.
Create a training program which is published showing the dates of training courses for the whole year.
Continue the encouragement of new musicians.

Leadership needs: **Liturgy Committee, PP + PPC**

Target Date: **Dec 2002**

1.4 Leadership Development

Requirement: The Parish to establish a PPC that will work collaboratively with the PP on the basis of an annual parish plan. The Parish to identify leadership needs with in the Parish.

Current situation: The PPC has been established.

Leadership needs are currently been identified through the promulgation of all the ministries with in the Parish.

Needs: The PPC to continue working towards the Plan
After all the ministries have been identified and their leaders look at filling all vacancies.
Develop information/training sessions for Parishioners who wish to become part of the Leadership structure with in the Parish. There is a need to reduce the load on some of the current leaders, spreading the load more evenly amongst the Parishioners.

Foster enthusiasm, involvement and positive thinking amongst the Parishioners

Leadership needs: **More Leaders required + PPC + PP**

Target Date: **PPC currently working with the Plan.
Leadership identification/implementation by July 2003.**

1.5 Parishes working together

Requirement: Develop joint plans for building stronger communities based on sharing resources.

Current situation: Berowra & Asquith have been made twin Parishes.

There were some communications between Berowra PPC & Asquith PPC at Chair person level last year

Needs: The two parishes PPC to have a joint meeting with the aim of analysing where resources and skills can be shared to supply mutual benefit.

Leadership needs: **PPC + PP**

Target Date: **March 2003**

1.6 Communication

Requirement: Parish to identify community members who have an interest in the Church & connect those people into the parish processes.
Identify active, inactive Catholics within the Parish. Create and register a data base of all members with the Parish who express an interest in the Parish, to assist communications and ongoing relationship.

Current situation: There is a Database of a previous Parish Census (at least 7 years old and has not been updated).

Leaders are currently been identified for publishing.

Needs: A new Census is required, firstly of active Parishioners.
Discerning gifts amongst the Parishioners, to be used help fellow Parishioners in times of need. This gathering of gifts can be done as part of the Census.
Continuation of the St Bernard's Chronicle/Jottings.
Expand the Church Bulletin. Look at the creation of a Parish web site.

Leadership needs: **PPC + All Parishioners**

Target Date: **Census of active Parishioners by July 2003
Expand the Church Bulletin Jul 2003
Create a Parish web site Dec 2003**

1.7 Ministry to those out of contact with the Church

Requirement: Parishes to survey and identify reasons why people are out of contact. Develop/implement programs to reach out to identify groups and provide forums events to which they can come.

Current situation: This issue is currently manifesting in Berowra with a reduction in people attending Masses and Liturgies.

Needs: Information from the Diocese on pilot parishes programs.
Look at carrying out a parish census for inactive parishioners use a specialised form.
Forums & Education

Leadership needs: **PPC + Co-ordinator**

Target Date: **Dec 2003**

1.8 Ecumenical linking

Requirement: Priest to take an active part in meeting with ministers of other churches
Parish to form joint committees with other Christian communities to bring communities closer together and to plan Christian outreach in the community

Current situation:

Needs: Identify other Christian community's leadership groups with in the Parish & begin the dialogue. Investigate further all activities with in the Parish (ie the gate house)

Leadership needs: **PPC + PP + a Co-ordinator**

Target Date: **June 2003 in line with 1.2**

1.9 Parish communities and their schools

Requirement: Seek joint plans from Parish and school involving parents in catechesis and faith development of the youth and young people

Current situation: Parish and School are working closer together.

Needs: Form a joint committee with representatives from the Parish & School to look at the issue of Catechesis and faith development of the youth. Developing a link Parish/School/Home.

Build the parish social life.

Continue to improve on the barrier reduction between Parish & School.

Supply copies of school newsletters to the church.

Leadership needs: **Committee creation**

Target Date: **Dec 2003**

Mission Focus 2: Catholic Education & Personal Faith Development

2.1 Evangelisation and Catholic Teaching

Requirement: Evangelism and Catholic Teaching

Current situation: St Bernard's requires a special focus on Adult education and children's liturgy.

Needs: A need for a bible study group
Encouragement of School families to become more involved in Church Life.

Leadership needs: **This is a Diocesan focus. We will gladly accept their assistance.**

Target Date: **Integrate within the Diocesan plan – respond to their initiatives**

2.2 Catholic Schools and Faith Education

Requirement: Develop joint parish/school plans to address key issues of community and faith development.

Current situation: Parish & School communicates regularly at PPC level. Improved communications will help bring the Parish & School closer together.

Needs: Formal integration of the Parish and Schools plans

Leadership needs: **PPC, PP & School Principal**

Target Date: **Dec 2003**

2.3 Government Schools

Requirement: Strengthening the Catechists in the Dioceses, as well as getting parents in the government schools involved in the religious education of the children.

Current situation: A shortage of Catechists in the Parish with very little encouragement from the leadership.

Needs: This is a Diocesan focus with a strong need for involvement from the Parish

Leadership needs: **Dioceses**

Target Date:

2.4 Sacramental programs

Requirement: Involve parents directly in the Sacramental program in the schools

Current situation: Running successfully.

Needs: Continued support from the PPC & PP

Leadership needs: **More Sacramental leaders are always welcomed.**

Target Date: **Implemented**

2.5 Parent involvement in education

Requirement: Involve parents actively in their children's faith development by offering programs through Catholic schools.

Current situation:

Needs: Seek information from the Diocese

Leadership needs: **School Principal, PPC, PP**

Target Date: **March 2004**

Mission Focus 3: Service & Social Justice.

3.1 Social Justice

Requirement: Develop a person/group in each parish to work in the area of social justice

Current situation: No knowledge of activity outside of St Vincent De Pauls activity.

Needs: Look deeper into the needs of the Parish in this area. PPC to add to standing meeting agenda.

Work with Asquith Parish

Leadership needs: Leadership required, PPC, PP

Target Date: March 2004

3.2 Ministry to those with special needs and marginalised people

Requirement: Identify a skilled and motivated person in each parish to co-ordinate activities in identified special areas
Engage each parish in identifying and planning its response to needs of groups living in the area

Current situation: No knowledge of activity outside of St Vincent De Pauls activity.

Needs: PPC to add to standard meeting agenda.

Leadership needs: Leadership required, PPC, PP

Target Date: March 2004

Mission Focus 4: Diocesan Leadership & Community Support.

4.1 Engagement of Young People

Requirement: Progressively introduce a youth minister, or share youth ministers in parishes
Develop a network of activities for young people throughout the diocese

Current situation: Youth activities are currently operating well in the Parish.

Needs: A Shared youth minister between Parishes.
Development to encourage the youth back to the Masses.

Leadership needs: **PP + PPC**

Target Date: **Further analysis required.**

4.2 Family Support

Requirement:

Current situation: This is a Diocesan focus

Needs: The Parish Census may show needs to be analysed.

Leadership needs: **PPC + Support from fellow parishioners.**

Target Date: **To be determined**

4.3 Ministry to divorced and re married and their families

Requirement:

Current situation: This is a Diocesan focus

Needs: The Parish Census may show needs to be analysed.

Leadership needs: **PPC + Support from fellow parishioners.**

Target Date: **To be determined**

Appendices

The Planning Goal as outlined by the Diocese.

In February 2000 Bishop David Walker called together a Diocesan Planning Project Group (DPPG) that comprised of clergy, lay people, and people in special ministries. This group was asked to work with consultants to engage the Diocese in thinking about its future and about the issues of our Church in the modern world, and to help prepare a Diocesan Pastoral Plan for the next three to five years.

Bishop David Walker set a clear direction for the plan. He said

'The goal of the plan is a reinvigoration of Christian community life: a Diocese whose members value and celebrate their communion, are united in faith, and are committed to share their faith by living and proclaiming the mission of Jesus Christ.'

In many ways the proposal to engage the whole Diocese in planning was a bold action but it was in keeping with a proposition put by the Bishops of Oceania to the Holy Father in 1999. The proposition emphasised four things:

1. It is vital to have a Pastoral Plan in every local Church.
2. The plan should involve all the people and all the organisations and movements within the Diocese.
3. The plan should call for participation, dialogue and community discernment; and
4. The plan flows from the spirituality of the Second Vatican Council, which is the spirituality of communion.

In summary, our diocesan pastoral plan has been established to:

- Provide direction based on living out our Diocesan Mission Statement
- Provide a framework within which local communities can shape their own plan / programs while maintaining unity with the larger Church
- Serve as a guide for effective administration of our services and finances
- Help us as we strive to build and strengthen our Christian community

The Planning Principles as outlined by the Diocese

The Bishop also formulated 5 principles to guide the planning process:

A Mission Focus

Implementing our Diocesan mission as a community of disciples of Jesus. With confidence and trust in, and openness to the Holy Spirit, we are committed to work together to extend the Kingdom of God.

Truthfulness

Issue driven and wherever possible informed with objective data; shaped by thorough, honest and transparent analysis; drawing on theology for insight and through prayer and creative imagination discerning what the community is called to be and do.

Inclusiveness

Seeking and valuing the diversity of inputs irrespective of age, personal circumstances, behaviour, ethnicity, lifestyle preference, disability and degree of involvement; providing all members of the Diocese with opportunities to express their views and be heard.

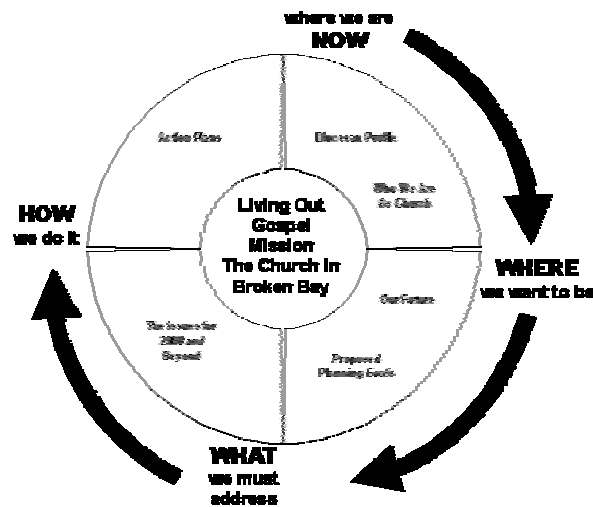
Respect

Listening, showing consideration, valuing each others contribution and seeking to understand each others perspective; in the spirit of reconciliation, and valuing the story the Diocesan community- its past, present, and possible futures.

Ecclesial Unity

Ensuring that the processes and outcomes are in keeping with the expressed mind of the Church

The Planning Model



Special thanks go to the two planning committees that made the creation of this plan/document possible.

The Plans Time Line:

Interest Area	2003												2004											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mission Focus 1: Community Life & Mission																								
1.1 Preparing to Work together	Implementation in progress																							
1.2 Proclaiming the Kingdom																								
1.3 Engaging Liturgy	Implementation in progress																							
1.4 Leadership Development																								
1.5 Parishes working together																								
1.6 Communication																								
Active Parishioners Census																								
Church Bulletin expansion																								
Parish web site																								
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Mission Focus 4: Diocesan Leadership & Community Support																								
4.1 Engagement of Young People	Further analysis required.																							
4.2 Family Support	A Diocesan initiative.																							
4.3 Ministry to divorced and re married and their families	A Diocesan initiative.																							