

# Holy Name Parish Wahroonga Three Year Pastoral Plan 2002-2005

17 May 2002

## **PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the Catholic Church of Wahroonga, inspired by our Baptismal call, nourished by the Eucharist, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are committed to work together to accomplish Christ's mission by:

- ✂ ✂ Deepening our life of Faith and Prayer and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus
- ✂ ✂ Serving each other, the community and all creation in justice and love
- ✂ ✂ Involving youth and young adults in parish life
- ✂ ✂ Educating the members of our parish in our Catholic story and beliefs and their implications for our lives
- ✂ ✂ Developing pastoral leadership and social justice
- ✂ ✂ Strengthening our ecumenical ties with other Christian Churches and seek to develop good will relationships with non-Christian communities.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The following goals and objectives for 2002 – 2005 are designed to help with the implementation of the mission statement and are the result of discussions of members of the Parish Pastoral Council guided by Fr Carmelo, Bishop David's Pastoral Plan for 2001 – 2005 and discussions with the parish community. The number(s) in brackets following objectives correlate with Bishop David's Pastoral Plan.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

1. Strengthen and support Wahroonga Youth Group that encourages young people to participate in their Faith
2. Support and enhance the Liturgical Life of the parish
3. Improve communications at all levels within the parish
4. Strengthen and support the Spiritual & Faith Education Ministries of the parish
5. Enhance a welcoming environment within the parish through a variety of socials, dinners, activities and gatherings
6. Ensure the Parish Pastoral Council represents a cross section of the parish community and understands its role in the Pastoral care of the parish
7. Strengthen and support the ministries that address social needs and service
8. To continue with the campaign to relocate our Prouille primary school from Waters street to the site beside our parish Church and presbytery.
9. Strengthen and support parish administration team.
10. Strengthen financial position of the parish to support the pastoral plan

## **A) SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH EDUCATION MINISTRIES**

*"The Holy Name parish will reach out to the community at large and all interested individuals to share and promote understanding of the Catholic faith."*

### **Parish Pastoral Needs:**

- 1) Under the direction of the Catechist co-ordinator continue to support and develop the Catechists programmes in local state schools and the Ku-Ring-Gai Christian Education Association. (2.5)
- 2) RCIA team to be reformed, Co-ordinator nominated, to review and update annually the RCIA process, including year round inquiry and mystagogy under the guidance of Fr Carmelo and the revised "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" guidelines. Effectively communicate the process to all parishioners to encourage active participation in the rites as they are celebrated during the liturgical year and to encourage and support the RCIA candidates. (1.2)
- 3) Under the direction of the Sacramental programme Co-ordinator continue to support the family centred Children's sacramental preparation programmes. (2.4, 2.6, 2.7)
- 4) Nominate a co-ordinator to provide a Youth Ministry as explained in the "Youth Ministry – Wahroonga Youth Group" paper presented to the Parish Pastoral Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2001. (4.16)
- 5) Nominate a Pastoral co-ordinator to offer a well-rounded programme of adult formation and education by (1.2, 2.2):
  - a) Developing a comprehensive series of meetings to help people understand Catholic teachings. (1.7)
  - b) Developing parish weekend retreats to help adults have a closer relationship with God
  - c) Offering a wide variety of formats
  - d) Using the talents of parishioners as presenters and leaders
  - e) Surveying the parish ( active & in-active Catholics) for ideas and direction (1.7)
  - f) Providing scripture workshops to ministry co-ordinators, PPC and adult education programmes
  - g) Encouraging a wide variety of prayer forms and spiritual life ( e.g. Rosary group, Ignatian Prayer group)
  - h) Reaching out to in-active Catholics and be ready to welcome them in the Church as they consider taking another look at their Catholic Faith. (1.7)
- 6) As the call to active involvement in ecumenical endeavours increases, the parish needs to establish a stronger Ecumenical group, to support Fr Carmelo, to put into place a programme of ecumenical activities into the annual Parish calendar. (1.2, 1.8, 2.3)
- 7) To maintain close liaison with Prouille to assure that the Pastoral activities of the Church and School communities are complimentary. (1.9, 2.4)

## **B) LITURGY AND THE SACRAMENTS**

*"The Holy Name parish will provide a spiritually nourishing atmosphere for celebrating the Sacraments and the liturgical life of the parish."*

### **Parish Pastoral Needs:**

- 8) To make available the widest available range of liturgical expression including: (1.3)
  - a) Daily Mass and when this is not possible the daily celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion.
  - b) Sacrament of Penance weekly
  - c) Children's Mass on the Second Sunday of the Month at 9:15 am (1.9)
  - d) Youth Mass on the Fourth Sunday of the Month at 6:15 pm
  - e) Sacraments of Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick by appointment/arrangement
  - f) Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Adults and school children) as arranged
  - g) Sacrament of Baptism for Infants at 11 am every third Sunday of the month
  - h) Funerals and School Masses
  - i) And any special liturgical celebrations as may be necessary ( e.g. Mass for the Sick, Sports Teams)
  
- 9) To enhance and deepen the Liturgical Ministries by providing opportunities for parishioners to participate in liturgies and ministries according to their gifts: (1.3)
  - a) Eucharistic Ministries
  - b) Liturgy Planning
  - c) Altar servers, readers, commentators, acolytes
  - d) Sanctuary/Altar Society
  - e) Greeters
  - f) Music Ministry
  - g) Sacristan duties
  
- 10) To provide for the continual formation and development of the team of Liturgical co-ordinators to: (2.8)
  - a) Conduct orientation, training and spiritual leadership for all liturgical ministries
  - b) Co-ordinate ministry activities
  
- 11) Continue to expand ministries to the hospitalised, in nursing homes and those who are home bound by:
  - a) educating and informing parishioners of the great needs of this ministry and the expected increase in the elderly population of the parish.
  - b) proper training of all volunteers
  - c) identifying those people within the parish with special needs for this ministry
  - d) ensuring the structure and number of volunteers is adequate to handle the demand
  
- 12) Establish a Children's Liturgy Ministry to: (1.2, 2.10)
  - a) support the preparation of parents presenting children for Baptism
  - b) establish a Sunday Children's liturgy
  - c) initiate follow up process to encourage participation of new parents throughout the early years of their child's development.
  
- 13) Establish a Bereavement Ministry to assist and comfort those in grieving.
  
- 14) Continue to provide an annual spiritual renewal programme for parishioners to be scheduled for Lent.

## **C) CHARITY: "CARITAS WAHROONGA"**

*"The Holy Name parish will strive to be a living example of Christian community through service to others and see justice for all people."*

**Parish Pastoral Needs:**

- 15) In affirmation of our responsibility as a parish to reach out to and include the sick, elderly, homebound, marginalised and needy in life support and strengthen the various caritas committees / ministries to undertake the following:
  - a) Identify those in our parish in need of care including the elderly and those with special needs (3.3)
  - b) Maintain groups of volunteers from parishioners who, can assist with provision of the basic necessities (e.g. food, transportation) and help those in need
  - c) Raise charity funds from the parish community to support their initiatives
- 16) Support and strengthen the Social Justice group to promote social teachings and education about issues of social concern as well as actively participating in working against injustices. (3.2)

**C) HOSPITALITY AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL LIFE**

*"The Holy Name parish will support and enhance community life through a variety of socials, dinners and gatherings."*

**Parish Pastoral Needs**

- 17) Nominate a co-ordinator and committee to plan and schedule:
  - d) Annual parish Dance
  - e) St Dominic's Day Parish Picnic Day
  - f) Dinner for Eight over 6 months of the Year
  - g) Youth Group activities
  - h) Australian Day Ecumenical Service and Parish Picnic Day.
  - i) Holy Thursday Agape
  - j) Feast the Christ The King Parish Picnic after 9:15 am Mass
- 18) To maintain close liaison with Prouille to assure that the Social and community activities of the Church and School communities are complimentary.(1.9)
- 19) The Mothers Discussion Group and the Senior Ladies Group in consultation with Father Carmelo will continue to support the interests, concerns and spiritual needs of their groups.
- 20) Establish a "Men's Fellowship" to bring the men of the parish together on a regular basis, in an informal social atmosphere to build faith and encourage greater leadership and support of Parish Life and Mission.

**E) PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND PARISH COMMUNICATION**

*"The Holy Name parish Pastoral Committee will represent the community at large to provide advice to Fr Carmelo regarding all pastoral matters as they effect the parish and facilitate communications within the parish to create its vision"*

**Parish Pastoral Needs:**

- 21) Create an election process each year that addresses the needs of the parish: (1.4)
  - a) In February, a sub committee of the Council will work with Fr Carmelo, Council members and parishioners to develop a list of people who could represent a cross section of the community
  - b) In February advise parishioners of an Information Night to be held in early March
  - c) Invite people to the Information night, by mail, where the PPC share the details of serving on the council
  - d) One week prior to the information night telephone those who were written to
  - e) In late March advertise the upcoming elections in the bulletin asking for nominations and follow up with those who attended the information night.
  - f) In early May list all nominees with short introductions in the bulletin
  - g) In late May hold the elections. Those elected will attend the June Council Meeting.
  - h) Hold AGM in mid June (scheduled August 2002) with new committee to take over at the close of the meeting.
  
- 22) Create an environment where each parishioner can have access to a member of the Council in order to provide input/feedback: (1.6)
  - a) Encourage each Council member to wear a name tag
  - b) Encourage each council member to reach out to the ministries nominated to them
  - c) Encourage each Council member to visit each committee nominated to them at least once a year.
  
- 23) Create an environment where each parishioner has an opportunity to communicate: (1.6)
  - a) Encourage parishioners to attend PPC meetings
  - b) Sponsor meetings twice a year (ex AGM) during which PPC members and parishioners discuss mutual parish interests.
  - c) Sponsor a meeting where the Parish Plan/Vision is openly discussed with the parishioners and the ministry co-ordinators (1.1)
  - d) Annual AGM in June
  
- 24) Identify leadership roles in parish by June 2002 and have processes available for training leaders by June 2003 (1.4 & 4.2)

**F) PARISH PASTORAL NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS COMMENCING 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2002**

At the May meeting the Parish Pastoral Council met to discuss the pastoral plan with a view to recommending to Fr Carmelo the pastoral needs to be addressed or strengthened by the Parish during the next twelve months.

In arriving at the priorities Fr Carmelo and the Council believed several of the pastoral needs contained in the plan were already being addressed by Parish teams and were meeting the needs of the Parish. These included:

Pastoral Need 1	Catechist programmes
Pastoral Need 3	Children's sacramental programme
Pastoral Need 7	Liaison with Prouille – Pastoral activities
Pastoral Need 8	Availability of Liturgical expression
Pastoral Need 9	Liturgical ministries
Pastoral Need 14	Annual spiritual renewal programme
Pastoral Need 17	Hospitality and parish social life
Pastoral Need 19	Liaison with Prouille – Social and community activities

There were several pastoral needs identified by the Parish Council requiring strengthening. The six top priorities, in priority order were:

Pastoral Need 2	Reform the RCIA team
Pastoral Need 5	Nominate a Pastoral co-ordinator to offer a well rounded programme of adult formation and education
Pastoral Need 4	Nominate a Youth ministry co-ordinator
Pastoral need 11	Continue to expand ministries to the hospitalised, in nursing homes and those who are home bound
Pastoral Need 12	Establish a Children's Liturgy Ministry
Pastoral Need 15	Support of the various Caritas committees / ministries.

The Parish Pastoral Council intends to study these pastoral needs, consult parishioners and learn all it can about the matter under consideration. The Council will then make a recommendation to Fr Carmelo who if he accepts the council's advice will then ask for it to be implemented by the Parish.