



PARISH OF SOUTH YARRA VISION STATEMENT



To be a vibrant and welcoming Church community of mutual care and support sustained by the Gospel. As an expression of our social concern, we walk with people who are marginalised and alienated – our faith in action. We are responsive to, and engaged with, the needs and issues of our times.

PASTORAL PLAN (Adopted March 9th 2011)

Goals	Means
A. Liturgy / Worship	
To provide the parish community with relevant, high quality liturgy and worship through active participation of clergy and lay parishioners	1. Ensure high quality and effective 'welcome', music, homilies, lay ministry (readers, commentators, support) that meet the needs of a diverse and changing community.
	2. Maintain our two present worship centres and forge a greater sense of parish unity and identity.
	3. Prepare for the New Roman Missal in Advent 2011.
B. Community	
To sustain, nurture and actively support the parish community	1. Foster occasional smaller groupings of parishioners as a focus for mutual support (e.g. Lenten home meeting groups & family-based sacramental programs, etc.)
	2. Use the Parish Centre and Barry Library to provide activities within the parish community for parishioners to meet socially, such as the annual BBQ, Supper Dance and St. Thomas Aquinas' Day Picnic, gatherings of volunteers.

C. Outreach / Service		
To demonstrate a practical commitment to the care of the needy and marginalised in the parish and local community	1.	Allocate resources to maintain and develop the parish emergency support services (food store, bread distribution, crisis shelter, etc.) as a priority. (whilst also seeking to out-source and supplement existing resources)
	2.	Maintain and utilise effectively care links and networks (government and non-government) in the broader community
	3.	Continue outreach to a wide spectrum of community groups, e.g. gay community and addiction support groups, through the availability of our meeting room space.
	4.	Work more closely with St. Joseph's Emergency Housing (EHASS) Association in sharing of resources.(cf. G.6)
	5.	Be alert to the needs of residents in both the Emergency Housing, crisis shelters and the Haven Units.
D. Witness / Evangelisation		
To walk, listen to and be with those searching for God	1.	To offer occasional and seasonal faith renewal and enrichment programs within the parish, or with other local churches. (cf. H. 1-4)
	2.	Continue to promote the RCIA program; Parish Library programs; volunteer programs.
E. Pastoral Structures / Leadership		
To ensure the staffing, structures and leadership in the parish serve the needs and priorities of the parish efficiently and effectively	1.	Regularly review parish structures, staffing, leadership and volunteer base of the Parish and identify future requirements at the level of pastoral leadership team and Parish Council.
	2.	Strengthen lay leadership ministries in the Parish communities
	3.	Be alert to emerging needs in the Parish community.
	4.	Re-forge connections with the wider community: Ecumenical, neighbouring parishes, Deanery, City of Stonnington, etc.
F. Communication / Promotion		
To maintain effective communication within the parish and beyond in order to promote what we have to offer	1.	Ensure the parish website and weekly "Bulletin" are effective means of communication, meeting the needs of a diverse population.
	2.	Investigate other potential methods of communication and outreach through printed materials, liason with community groups and services.
	3.	Maintain an accurate electronic database of parishioners.
	4.	Devise an effective parish "Promotion Strategy" appropriate to the values, culture and priorities of the parish to sustain a vibrant welcoming community.

G. Property / Finance/ Administration

To use resources and facilities in the parish creatively to support the priorities of the parish community	1.	Retain current staffing arrangements to facilitate present parish ministries
	2.	Maintain up to date electronic data of the financial and physical resources of the parish.
	3.	Investigate potential for generating income through attracting groups, organizations to use parish centre facilities.
	4.	Periodically monitor and review Parish Planned Giving
	5.	Develop a model of administrative and financial collaboration with Emergency Housing Assoc. (EHASS)
	6.	Budget annually for ongoing maintenance of parish plant.

H. Faith Development and Enrichment

To enrich the faith life and spirituality of members of the parish	1.	Maintain efforts to promote the Catechumenate (RCIA program) and adult faith renewal.
	2.	Provide Catechetics/Sunday School (Childrens' Liturgy) & Sacramental Programs.
	3.	Renewal and faith formation programs for parish ministers, volunteers, and the faithful in general (retreats, seminars)
	4.	Create opportunities to promote awareness of ties with other Augustinian parishes and Augustinian Friends.

I. Pastoral Care

	1.	Remain alert to the needs of senior parishioners, younger people and newer parishioners.
	2.	Assist in providing for the ongoing needs of retired and aging clergy.
	3.	Facilitate renewal opportunities for parish staff, pastoral leadership team and volunteer base.
	4.	Continue to collaborate in chaplaincy to the Alfred Hospital, MECWA and Royal Freemasons nursing homes.(cf. D.3)