

## SUMMARY OF MEETING - HFP TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL – Online

Date: Thursday 28 October 2021

Time: 7.30pm

### Purpose of meeting:

1. To provide an overview of the Take the Way of the Gospel (TWG) process to date.
2. To understand what Mission might mean for HFP by listening to participants about what resonates and their hopes for our parish

We did this by providing a timeline of activities, sharing information about what Missions are and why we are being asked to consult and discern together and describe the illustrative Mission grouping.

**Presenters:** Helen O’Keefe and Leanne Ma – HFP Coordinators, additional contact point and supporting Fr Rene and Fr Gerald work with our Parish through the TWG process.

**Opening Prayer:** Beginning the Journey (Read by Frank)

### Part 1: Journey to date and what we are hearing

- In April and May the Archbishop organised two meetings for Priest (Fr Rene and Fr Gerald) and Parish Representative (Frank Unger – PPC President), respectively.
- Pentecost Sunday - Archbishop Peter Comensoli circulated the letter – Re-imagining our local church as mission communities. The Archdioceses has since hosted a range of online events to assist Parishes reflect on the invitation, pray and be inspired by other Parishes and their renewal journey. Two regional meetings were held for Priests and Coordinators to start the journey
- The Archbishop, has received much feedback conveying the challenges of going into Mission and requesting a pause to the process.
- Some of the things we’ve heard through the feedback letters and at the regional meetings
  - Credibility of Location IQ/Data – the process is data driven not spirit driven
  - Real or perceived lack of or inadequate consultation
  - Challenges about the Model, alternatives appear to not have been considered
  - A lot of questions about what will happen to Parishes and Priests and how does that affect the relationship with Parishioners
  - Need to define what we mean by Mission,
- **Discussion – What have you heard? What are your concerns?**
  - *Workload for the priests, Priest declining*
  - *Continuity of the work*
  - *Fragmentation silos?*
  - *Laity with a bigger role*
  - *How to blend cultures of 4 or 5 church communities considering customs, ways of doing things*
  - *Idea about being missional is excellent. How we went about it is the problem*
  - *Should be done without prefabricated ideas: experience of prayer, experience of charity*
  - *In crisis, the Church is alive*
  - *more churches, more clusters*
  - *Mission—outreach into wider community*
  - *Vinnies type cast. Within any Church/Parish, there are up to 10 people that do the outreach*
  - *Vinnies is everybody’s job; within 100 yards of the Church are many vulnerable people who have been housed in Launch Housing—they have shelter but not a community*
  - *St Monica’s parish—a facility for 100 homeless is being proposed*
  - *we have to encourage and train members to be evangelisers*
  - *Review of what we are doing/process*
  - *identify talent through a process of review*

## PART 2: Why, and What is Mission

- Why Mission? – video from Pope Francis ([https://youtu.be/ROhU2POS\\_o8](https://youtu.be/ROhU2POS_o8)) message from Pope Francis (Read by Pearl) and Archbishop Peter Comensoli (Read by Paul)
- What is Mission? The aim is to:
  - Increase effectiveness in sharing the Gospel – So that our local parish communities become alive with missionary disciples of Jesus Christ fully living their baptismal call
  - Ensure Vibrancy, Vitality and Viability of Parishes
  - Enable Equitable sharing of resources.
- Mission is a distinctive faith locality that lends itself to being lived out in family-like arrangements
- A reordering of ministerial and material resourcing
- **Group Discussion – How would you describe a Parish that is vibrant, has vitality and is viable?**  
**VIBRANT & VITALITY**
  - *Greater sense of connection between parishioners (easier when you already know people). Feeling connected/sense of belonging to the parish as a network, not just a cluster of individual social groups*
  - *Greater outreach to the community, greater presence for new people to the neighbourhood who could use some help getting settled (e.g. friendships, amenities, social life, assistance during hardship etc.) Always room for improvement – don't know any parish that does it well*
  - *Parish events, need to be more intentional about mixing people up. Actively support newer people*
  - *Living in this area: homeless people are parachuted into this area but we can make connections: Example of woman with a child who moved into a flat in the parish (from Sunbury); Vinnies were told of her; her cross landing neighbour is a parishioner who shared a language with her and was able to help her.*
  - *We need to focus on outreach, create activities that break down the groups that people naturally congregate into at parish events; we need to be intentional about empowering people.*
  - *Was a mass goer in childhood and youth; from a immigrant family. Lack of routine led to disengagement as an adult. Has a belief in the local community;*
  - *Belief in God/ in Hope; is inspired by 'seeing' the faith of others during the Eucharist.*
  - *Parish is full of life and energy, Engagement, out- reach, family oriented*
  - *There are sacramental program for all ages, reaching out to all people, programs for all people*
  - *It will depend on the activities that involves the parishioners, programs for the youth (future of the parish) – focusing on the youth, contributions of talent and time*
  - *Population of the parish "Young people go to Church for the Community"*
- **VIABLE (What keeps you here?)**
  - *Nourishment and stimulation. (Spiritually and intellectually); Always something to gain.*
  - *The ability to "see" faith as some form of tangible concept and practice; and*
  - *The people and forming meaningful connections.*
  - *Feeling like I have something tangible to attach my faith. People and culture, not always and even split.*
  - *Being able to see other people's faith at mass – I see a sense that it is real. It is quite a powerful thing*
  - *Sense of accomplishment*
  - *To be viable you need change, evangelization/evangelizing committee/team, faith programs, faith reaching*
- Our notional grouping – only illustrative starting point, includes Yarraville, Footscray and Kingsville
- What we are doing – Vision, MPC (stocking parish programs, assets, resources and skills). Next steps consult with Parishioners to understand our Parish needs and hopes and then review against our assets. These will inform our 5 year plan.
- **General Discussion -**
  - *How do you feel?*
  - *What opportunities and potential do we see in working together in a Mission?*
  - *What are the immediate roadblocks you see?*

- *What factors do we need to consider as we discern further?*

#### ROAD BLOCKS

- *Geographical roadblocks – The railway line is an endemic barrier suggest looking at the railway lines – would divide the parish line up Sunshine and Braybrook – would divide the proposed mission. Sunshine is the same side of the railway line.*

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- *Mission to a larger parish*
- *Some Priests are excited about forming a mission with other parishes in their area.*
- *Some Priests are past retirement age.*
- *How do we work better with neighbouring parishes—we lead others through the structure of being partnered for 18 years*
- *Mission is what you do now.*
- *It is a courtship between parishes—how can we expand the discussion? Need to communicate the idea. Footscray, Kingsville, Yarraville – ask them for their thoughts?*
- *be glad if people start talking about this, note talk from Austen Ivereigh (author of the Wounded Shepherd) problems in the Church—in a crisis something develops and emerges.*
- *Vague - Get all the information and meet next February.*
- *Have 3-page brochure (Archdiocese's Intro to Mission) with boundary information as a starter.*

#### OTHER

- *Holy Family Parish—1250 parishioners; the other three parishes combined are only a half of that. Only attracts 15% of Catholics in the zone. Is it Mission or is it amalgamation?*
- *99% of time—renewing this parish; attracting more Catholics*
- *Archbishop said this would be the model*
- *Need to reach other Catholics.*

NEXT STEPS: Continue this conversation with groups within our parish community to gather ideas and feedback. Consider what can we do practically now?

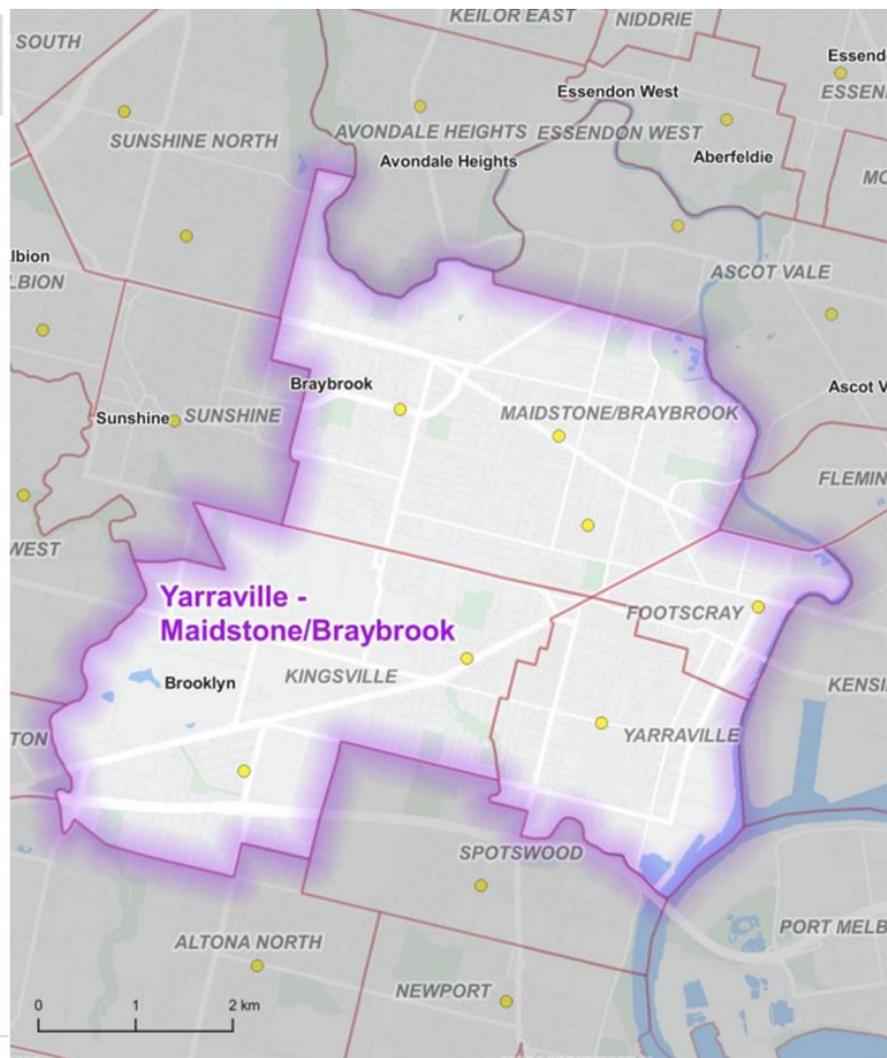
CLOSING PRAYER – Fr Gerald

Summary of Questions:

- How to make us a viable parish What can renew parish?
- What should the mission of this parish be?
- Mission of any organization—what you do now?
- Aren't these two processes? Vibrant Parish and Amalgamation.
- What is the role of the laity?
- What is another structure to meet the challenge of a vanishing priesthood?
- How much control does the Parish and/ or parishioners have over becoming a mission?
- Is there scope to refuse it altogether?
- What is the decision-making process (e.g. are we going to vote?)? Who makes the final call?
- What are our goals as a Parish? What do we want most out of this mission? Are we as a Parish on the same page regarding this?
  - How will becoming a mission achieve these goals?
  - What implications does a mission have – legally, financially, operationally?
  - Insurance, book keeping, assets, registrations, databases, grants from Archdiocese etc.
  - Structure – Finance Committees, PPC, MPC, parish groups (e.g. Edge) – what happens? Is it a reshuffling of cards?
  - Decision making – how will decisions be made? Shared with the other parish? Complete merger, or sharing of resources and amenities but separately governed?
- What is the formalisation process? (once we decide to become a mission) –
  - Are there any name changes?
  - What role does the archdiocese play in this process? Are there any other underlying motivations (other than what is said on their website) for encouraging parishes to form missions?
- Can we outline the objective pros and cons to a mission to aid the decision-making process?
- Structure of mission centres, what is in the fine print. What does it mean legally and structurally?

## Our Notional Mission

	Yarraville - Maidstone/Braybrook					Western Mission* Ave.	Melbourne Ave.
	Footscray	Kingsville	Maidstone Braybrook	Yarraville	Total		
<b>2016 Pop.</b>	7,454	13,135	38,354	17,085	76,029	63,907	73,839
<b>2016 Catholic pop.</b>	1,055	3,216	7,838	3,034	15,143	16,088	17,150
<b>Mass attendance 2019</b>	231	151	1,283	263	1,928	1,827	1,832
<b>Contributors</b>	33	0	292	78	403	761	733
<b>Workload</b>	46	85	142	142	415	636	581
<b>Catholic Schools</b>	1	2	2	1	6	5	6
• Primary	1	2	2	1	6	4	4
• Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
• Combined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
• Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Student Enrolments</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>2,467</b>
• Primary	135	262	448	174	1,019	1,443	1,303
• Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	1,082	1,027
• Combined	0	0	0	0	0	0	178
• Special	0	0	0	0	0	28	9
<b>Hospitals</b>	1	0	5	0	6	2	2
<b>Aged Care Places</b>	2	1	3	2	8	6	8
<b>Aged Care Beds</b>	247	68	238	117	670	494	674
<b>Thanksgiving+ Other Income</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	518,249	592,650	703,175
<b>Pop Growth 2020-36 (%)</b>	4.3%	1.5%	2.8%	1.7%	2.5%	2.4%	1.7%
<b>Ave. HH Income</b>	89,644	94,634	91,282	127,964	100,186	93,638	100,764
<b>Ave. HH Size</b>	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.6
<b>Ave. Age</b>	37.0	37.1	35.2	35.9	35.9	36.1	38.0
<b>Overseas Born (%)</b>	49.2%	35.1%	49.8%	26.9%	41.9%	34.9%	33.3%
<b>Coup W dep't children</b>	28.2%	44.8%	42.1%	48.8%	43.1%	46.5%	46.5%
<b>% Catholic</b>	14.2%	24.5%	20.4%	17.8%	22.3%	29.1%	26.1%



Existing Parish Boundaries    Churches    Illustrative Mission

