

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council, Echuca – Action Plan 2015-2018

We aim to be inclusive in all aspects of the parish. This requires effective communication and information and can be achieved by a focus on liturgy, outreach and social justice.

GOAL	This Year (2015-2016) We Will...	By 2018	Have We Achieved Our Goal?
<p>We aim to nourish and build our community through inclusive and engaging liturgical experiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the presence of the Parish Pastoral Council in the St Mary's community and continue to encourage attendance and participation by others in our community. Continue to encourage others to share their gifts. • Ensure we are a welcoming Parish to all Parishioners and newcomers. This could include adopting a "Welcome Book" at the Church, conduct a name badge drive and enhancing the role of "Welcomers" at each Mass. • Further develop the Come and See Masses and associated "rebuilding" endeavours. • Engage with the aged care liturgy team and the teams who conduct home visits to identify what, if any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged care liturgies are being well supported by Ministers, are reaching the community members that need it and are meaningful, engaging and supportive. • Come and See Masses are occurring regularly and are being attended and supported by a wide range of community members. • Celebrations, masses, gatherings and functions are strongly supported and attended and all Parishioners (new and old) feel warmly welcomed to masses and gatherings. • The number of people involved in ministries and groups is growing. • Increased community participation and attendance at school liturgies/Eucharist. • An active and innovative liturgy 	

	<p>support they require to ensure these liturgies are meaningful, engaging and available to all identified community members (including those people in care facilities and those at home).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote, encourage and support the liturgy committee and music team to review and continue to improve liturgy and music across all masses and celebrations to ensure gatherings are meaningful, engaging and inviting to all. • In conjunction with the liturgy committee and music team, review the meaning and purpose of the Parish Blessing Song and how it is used in mass and celebrations. • Work with our Parishioners and school community to attract new musicians to take part in masses and celebrations. • Be flexible and responsive in our approach in supporting and encouraging others to provide nourishing, inclusive and engaging liturgical experiences, including the ability to offer meetings, prayer 	<p>committee and music team are successfully developing and delivering engaging liturgies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parish has a wide group of singers and musicians and a succession plan in place to support the delivery of liturgy, masses and celebrations. 	
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	<p>groups, discussion groups, masses and liturgies in response to local, national and global issues (e.g. natural disasters).</p>		
<p>We aim to be a truly inclusive parish through real and effective outreach and personal dialogue with ALL members of our catholic community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map the parish groups and ministries operating within the parish and start to link in with these groups to provide support and assist in identifying commonalities, duplication of effort and potential improvements to the work of these groups and the support they provide to the St Mary's community. • In conjunction with linking in with groups and ministries, look to identify avenues to follow up with people who are newly connecting with the Church such as after baptism, confirmation, funerals etc... • Consider and develop new initiatives (being mindful not to duplicate the efforts of other groups including other churches) to open the church to all community members such as hosting a cup of tea after baptism masses and other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish groups and ministries are providing streamlined, inclusive support to the work of the church and are effective in reaching out to all of the St Mary's community. • The Parish Pastoral Council is strongly linked to all Parish Groups and Ministries and effective two-way communication has been established. • The St Mary's community is responsive to the needs of its members and continue to provide support to those identified needs. • More people are participating in sharing their gifts with the St Mary's community and attendance at masses and functions has increased. • Conduct a St Mary's "Expo" or ensure current and readily accessible information is available to the broader community regarding the various groups, ministries and support provided to the community. 	

	<p>social events such as a book club, spirituality in the pub, Parish “Phone Tree” etc. Consider installing an area at the back of the church for after mass gatherings etc...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with already established groups in the Parish to ensure the Parish’s elderly, sick and housebound Parishioners are provided with meaningful opportunities to foster and participate in their faith journey. • After identifying those in the Parish who would like to attend Mass but are unable to do so, develop a transport roster to provide them the means of coming to Mass. • Support the continuing development of the Parish Website to facilitate the flow of information and resources to the community. • Review the possibility of hosting a St Mary’s “Expo” to showcase the various groups and ministries and support provided by the St Mary’s community. • Support ecumenism in regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives in making St Mary’s a warm, welcoming, inviting and informative community to new, current or past members. • Establish a transport roster for people not able to attend Mass. • St Mary’s has a strong ecumenical focus. 	
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	<p>communicating with other Church and faith communities and regularly becoming involved in joint programs and initiatives.</p>		
<p>We aim to be true to the Gospel and relevant in our local and global community with open dialogue and information and response from a catholic perspective on issues of justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Come and See Masses as an avenue to reach out to community members and provide information and open dialogue on social issues. • Be flexible and responsive in our approach to offer meetings, prayer groups, discussion groups, masses and liturgies in response to local, national and global issues (e.g. natural disasters). • Provide social justice information and support to the St Mary's community in innovative ways and work with the Social Justice Committee to provide an advocacy role when required. • Be aware of the various social justice initiatives offered in the local community and ensure not to duplicate those services and, where possible, to become involved in such programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary's actively participates in community events and provides information and support to the community on issues of justice. • Support the Social Justice Committee to conduct a month dedicated to social justice with references during masses and activities, information sessions etc... for the St Mary's Community (e.g. Justice September). Provide support in linking the Social Justice Committee with other groups such as the liturgy committee to support the implementation of this initiative. • The efforts of the Social Justice Committee are supported by the Parish Pastoral Council and the council has provided an advocacy role where required. 	