

**REPORT**  
**ST GREGORY'S, QUEANBEYAN PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2016 -2018**

***VISION STATEMENT***

*St Gregory's Family is committed to be a Christ-centred pilgrim people who through word and deed, are a living witness of God's unconditional love for all.*

**GOALS FOR THE PASTORAL COUNCIL & PARISH MINISTRIES**

***GOAL 1: BUILDING CONNECTEDNESS AS A PARISH THROUGH WELCOME & PARTICIPATION***

***GOAL 2: BELONGING THROUGH SACRAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION***

***GOAL 3: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE, OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE***

St Gregory's Parish



Queanbeyan  
Michelago  
Bungendore  
Braidwood

## St Gregory's Parish Pastoral Council Report

### Introduction

Over the last eighteen months to two years St Gregory's Parish has grown substantially, with about 153 new parishioners. This is fantastic news for us here at St Gregory's. Weekly attendance at Mass has increased from 480 in 2016 to 626 in 2018.

### Context of Queanbeyan and Michelago Parish

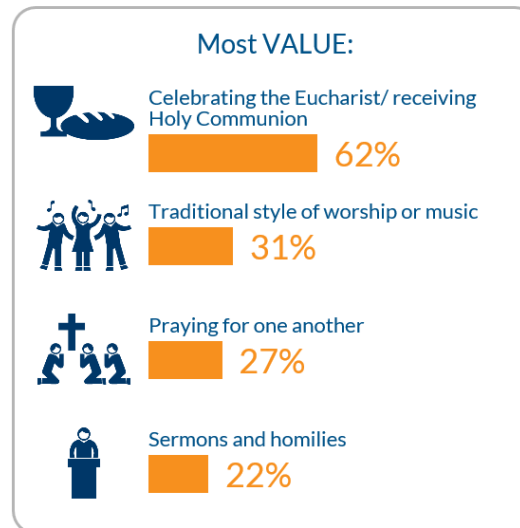
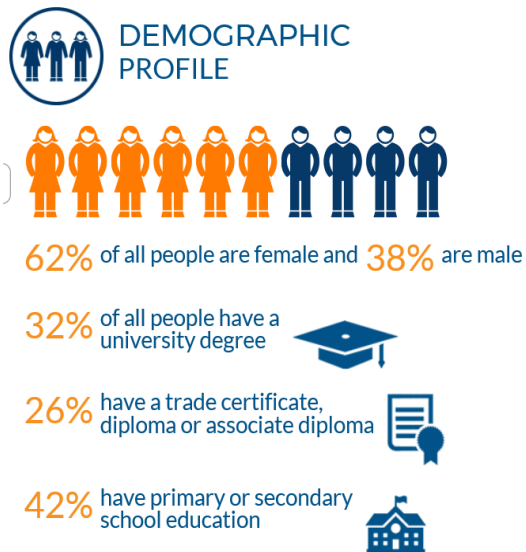
The National Church Life Survey was conducted across Australian parishes in 2016. The information provided from the survey recognizes the vitality of Queanbeyan/Michelago Parish. It assists the Parish Pastoral Council to develop plans for the future of our Parish family.

The following information is a summary of the National Church Life Profile results for our parish. (A more detailed copy of the report is available on the Parish website.)

## Church Life Profile

Queanbeyan & Michelago Parish  
The Catholic Church in Australia

The people of this parish...



**The average age of parishioners is 59.**

**57%** of all people were born in AUSTRALIA

**42%** were born overseas

**32%** speak a language other than ENGLISH at home

**19%** of attenders here are new arrivals to this parish in the past five years.

**96%** attend Mass at least monthly



**81%** agree that this parish is always ready to TRY SOMETHING NEW

**34%** of attenders perform a LEADERSHIP OR MINISTRY ROLE

**75%** agree that this parish has good and CLEAR SYSTEMS for how it operates

Attenders agree:

**45%** Leaders encourage me to find and use my gifts and skills to a great or some extent

**68%** Leaders take into account ideas of people here to a great or some extent

**55%** Leaders here inspire me to action

### **Role of the St Gregory's Parish Pastoral Council**

The role of a Parish Pastoral Council is to work shoulder to shoulder in ministry with the Parish Priest to build the active faith life of community through prayer, sacramental and liturgical celebrations, connectedness with the community and outreach in social justice.

The Parish Pastoral Council is:

- a team comprising parishioners, Deacon Chris van Gessel and the Parish Priest, Fr Troy
- the Council's role is to offer considered advice and assistance to their Parish Priest on ways to foster pastoral action that is centred on and inspired by Jesus Christ. The council:
  - proclaims the Gospel in terms that are relevant for members of the community
  - builds the parish as a community for mission.

The St Gregory's Parish Pastoral Council meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 5.30pm until 7.00pm. Membership is for 2 years with the opportunity to renew for a further 1 year.

**Parish Pastoral members:** Fr. Troy Bobbin, Parish Priest; Mary Dorrian, Chairperson; Kate McManus-Green, School Representative; Sarah Pearson and Jordan Hodge, Youth Representatives; Selina Stanford Parish Finance Committee; Jaison Basil (resigned due to work commitments during 2017); Margaret Carmody; Ryan Matchett; Tom Mavec (transitional/mentor role in 2016) Nigel Priest; Antony and Kripa Stanislaus; Haley Stonham (moved to Queensland at end of 2017); Michael Strudwick; Deacon Chris Van Gessel

Minutes recorders: Catherine Elton and Elenore Karpfen

## Re-appointment of Fr Troy Bobbin to the parish until 2022

During the visit the Archbishop Christopher met with our Parish Priest Fr Troy to reflect on aspects of St Gregory's Parish including the role of Parish Priest. The Archbishop has asked Fr Troy to remain as Parish Priest for another 5 years and this will complete his 2nd term of 6 years.

Fr Troy has accepted the Archbishop's request and is very pleased to have the opportunity to build on the good work that has been undertaken so far.

## St Gregory's Parish Pastoral Council highlights 2016 -2018

2016	2017	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Plan developed</li> <li>- Parish Expo event held to highlight the various Ministries and groups within the Parish</li> <li>- Youth and Family Mass established at 5.30 pm on Sundays</li> <li>- Establishment of a Liturgy Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Men Alive group established</li> <li>- Parish action following the Royal Commission – Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse;</li> <li>- Parish Dinner – Geraldine Doogue guest speaker</li> <li>- All staff and volunteers who are in contact with children are required to have Working with Children and Vulnerable People registration according to Archdiocesan guidelines</li> <li>- Youth Group Leadership and Spiritual Development</li> <li>- Adult education – Training sessions for Readers and Special Ministers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pentecost Sunday – multi-cultural morning tea</li> <li>- Small group pilgrimages to St Mary MacKillop House – Sydney and Galong</li> <li>- 3-day Parish visit by Archbishop Prowse</li> <li>- Women's Retreat – Galong</li> <li>- Australian Plenary Council - Listening Sessions</li> <li>- St Gregory's Parish Website redesigned</li> <li>- Welcoming Committee established</li> <li>- Family friendly initiative – <i>Quiet Play Spaces</i> for babies and young children</li> </ul>

<p><b>Spiritual Development of Parish Pastoral members</b></p> <p>Parish Pastoral Council Retreat – all members</p> <p><i>Proclaim</i> Conference 2016 &amp; 2018 -</p> <p><i>Joy of the Gospel</i> seminar</p> <p>2020 Australian Plenary Council – 2 Listening Sessions held in parish</p> <p>Archdiocesan Women's Listening Sessions attended by parishioners</p> <p>Youth Conferences attended by Parish Youth Team</p>	<p><b>Maintenance</b></p> <p><b>St Raphael's Church: Accessibility – physical</b></p> <p>Social area for morning teas etc, renovated, extended and refurbished to improve access and seating</p> <p>Marking of carpark spaces including disabled spaces close to entry</p> <p>Widening of side entrance</p> <p>Repairs to gutters and bell tower</p> <p>No kneelers in front section of church to provide access for people with mobility impairment</p> <p><b>Accessibility – participation</b></p> <p>Improved PA system and full texts on screens to enhance participation for people with hearing impairment and those with vision impairment</p> <p>Website was completely revised and complies with accessibility requirements in design and colour</p> <p><b>Restoration to St Gregory's Church</b> utilizing grant from Queanbeyan Palerang Council and fundraising</p> <p>Parish Maintenance Plan developed and implemented</p>
<p><b>Youth group achievements</b></p> <p>Leadership and spiritual development facilitated and led by Parish Youth Coordinator</p>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>Review of income and expenditure to address budget deficit</p> <p>Implementation of revised Planned Giving Renewal Program</p> <p>Parish Gift shop increased sales</p> <p>Volunteer roster for church cleaning</p>

Youth gatherings established and facilitated each week St Gregory's Youth members attended Archdiocesan and National events	
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## GOAL 1 BUILDING CONNECTEDNESS AS A PARISH THROUGH WELCOME & PARTICIPATION

### Summary of Achievements

#### KEY FOCUS AREAS

**WELCOME:** DYNAMIC; WELCOMING; BEING PRESENT

**CONNECTEDNESS:** CONNECTING THROUGH LIFE EVENTS; MAINTAINING CONNECTIONS

**PARTICIPATION:** ONGOING INVITATION TO MINISTRY; FLEXIBILITY IN MINISTRY

- Response to Royal Commission into the Response to Child Sexual Abuse - Forum hosted Parish/Archdiocesan dinner with Geraldine Doogue as guest speaker – Theme *Where to from here?*
- Men's Alive group established; Seminar and Listening Sessions facilitated
- Women's Retreat – Galong
- Welcoming Committee established
- Parish EXPO provided an opportunity to highlight the various parish groups and ministries
- Quiet play spaces for families with babies and small children established in St Raphael's Church (see Appendix for Report)
- Children's Liturgy - *Little Sparks* held at 9 am Mass on Sunday
- Morning tea area near St Raphael's extended and refurbished
- Car spaces marked in the carpark at St Raphael's Church so that parishioners have better parking access to the church
- Adult education sessions for Readers; Eucharistic Ministers
- Women's Prayer group established
- Social media presence through Facebook

## GOAL 2: BELONGING THROUGH SACRAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.

### Summary of achievements

#### KEY FOCUS AREAS

**CHRIST-CENTRED COMMUNITY:** CONTINUOUS INVITATION INTO THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

**LIFE-GIVING LITURGIES:** PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION BY EVERYONE IN ALL PARTS OF THE LITURGY, INCLUDING PLANNING

**LIFE-CELEBRATING SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: ADULTS AND CHILDREN:** RE-CONNECTING PARENTS IN THE FAITH JOURNEY OF THEIR CHILD  
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS, CHILDREN AND PARISHIONERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PARISH LITURGY, SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY AND OUTREACH.

#### Support for the following Sacramental programs:

- Baptismal presentation
  - Marriage preparation
  - Reconciliation
  - First Eucharist
  - Confirmation
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- parent evenings held for each Sacrament with the emphasis on faith formation
  - children invited to join in various activities after each step of the Sacrament Program
    - On receiving First Eucharist, young people can become involved in the Offertory and as altar servers
    - On receiving Confirmation, young people can join the roster of readers at Mass
  - Parish representation at relevant conferences and retreats:
    - Proclaim*, a biennial national conference on parish evangelisation.
    - Explosion*, an annual, Canberra-based youth conference facilitated by the Archdiocese
  - Parish Pastoral Council Members Retreat
  - Choir membership extended through the promotion of music as an important ministry
  - Liturgy group plan prayers, liturgies, art and music for Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Christmas; Planned and implemented a program of adult education for the whole congregation about the various parts of the Mass; presented information training sessions for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers
  - Introduction of mini pilgrimages/retreats – St Mary MacKillop House in Sydney and Galong
  - ALPHA program facilitated and presented for parishioners

## GOAL 3: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE, OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Summary of Achievements

**COMMUNITY:** EXPLORING WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR- Local, Regional, Global

**OUTREACH:** REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE WITHIN & BEYOND OUR COMMUNITY; CONNECTING OUTREACH SERVICES & OTHER INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

**SERVICE** TAPPING THE TALENTS OF ALL IN SERVICE FOR OTHERS

**The St Gregory's Parish Pastoral Council supports and encourages the following Community groups and Ministries:**

PARISH COMMUNITY GROUPS	PARISH MINISTRIES
Bereavement Team	Acolytes
Cancer Support Group	Altar Servers
Church Cleaning Group	Prayer writers
Craft Group/Friendship Group	Readers
Couples for Christ	Special Ministers of the Eucharist at Mass
Family Groups	Children's Liturgy - <i>Little Sparks</i>
Men Alive Group	St Gregory's Music Ministries - Choir/s
Prayer groups - Wednesday group and Women's group	Special Ministers for the sick and housebound
RCIA Team	Special Ministers for the patients in hospital and nursing homes
Sunday Morning Tea (after 9 am Mass)	Liturgical Team
School of Religion	<b>RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL HERITAGE</b> Acknowledgement of Country at meetings eg. Parent nights and Parish Pastoral Council Meetings; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags displayed in St Raphael's church
St Benedict's Community Day Centre	
St Gregory's Parish Gift Shop	
St Gregory's Youth Group	
St Vincent de Paul Society	