**A Report from the Parish Pastoral Council**

Dear Parishioners

It has been over six months since the establishment of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and we are delighted to report on the wonderful work which has been accomplished to date:

* Leadership training and formation of all Councillors in house and through the Archdiocese Office of Evangelization. Our first official meeting was on 13 February 2019 with training on the 16 February and over 4 weeks in May.
* The celebration of the Lunar New Year on 17 February 2019.
* Conducting the final listening and dialogue session of the first phase of the Plenary 2020 on February 27, 2019 in the Ollie Grimes Room, St Clement of Rome School. Close to 60 participants. The PPC collated all the diverse viewpoints and incorporated them into the Parish’s final submission to the Plenary Council. This went through 6 drafts before submission on 6 March 2019.
* Organising, co-ordinating and conducting a six weeks Scripture Studies Program for Lent. With over a dozen people attending, the program was designed to take a closer look at the weekly scripture readings, examine their significance and draw relevance to our everyday lives. The discussions were open, honest and a safe place for learning and growing in our understanding of the word of God. We are working towards greater participation in this lay-led programme.
* Included in our Easter celebrations were the Tenebrae Service and the Praying of the Divine Office on Holy Saturday Morning.
* The PPC met on 1 May 2019.
* Co-hosting a mission on the topic of “Living a Contemporary Catholic Life of Faith, Hope and Love” led by Fr. Richard Leonard, SJ, May 20-May22, 2019. In excess of 100 people attended each night, again held in the Ollie Grimes Room, St Clement of Rome School. Major preparations included: catering, audio visual facilities, seating arrangements, ushering, the display of biblical texts, signage, car parking and advertising. The sessions were an opportunity for our faith community to come together to hear the inspiring stories, hymns, experiences and reflections from Fr. Leonard. Many confronting social justice issues were highlighted prompting the PPC to take on the challenge of responding to social needs.
* In relation to the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, June 9, 2019 the Council together with Fr. Franco and Fr Vito decided on a combined service on Sunday at 10.00am followed by a community lunch. The Holy Spirit inspired us to cooperatively combine music, song, food from our cultural heritage and language in a way that lifted our spirits and helped us to renew our faith with new friends. The PPC received positive responses and requests for further combined Mass and celebrations.

The PPC are now working on several initiatives. The major ones include: leading St. Clement of Rome Parish to becoming a Dementia Aware/Friendly Parish and commencing the second phase of discernment of Plenary 2020.

Thank you to all who actively participated and supported the events we have undertaken thus far.

We welcome enthusiastic, committed parishioners to be part of the PPC in order to continue the important mission of building our faith community. Interested persons please leave your name and contact details with the Parish Office. Confirmation is subject to approval by the Executive of the PPC in consultation with Fr. Franco our parish priest.

Parish Pastoral Council Executive

St Clement of Rome,

Bulleen.

13 June 2019