

SJA Parish Strategic Plan



Our Vision for our parish

We are welcoming to all, in fellowship with Jesus Christ and one another, and offering this love and service to the wider community.

We seek to achieve our vision by

- a) strengthening our welcome and building connections – (developed through priorities 5, 4, 8 & 9, 10)
- b) enriching our faith and spirituality – (developed through priorities 7, 8 & 9)
- c) developing our youth, family and diverse community engagement - (developed through priorities 1, 4, 6, 8 & 9)
- d) enhancing our pastoral care and social justice – (developed through priorities 2, 3)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. —Ephesians 4:11–13

As Fr Phil Zadro explains, “a welcoming and modern Catholic community grounded in faith and spirituality, we want to engage with and build a broader Catholic community, particularly among the young, and with the families of our local Catholic school as well as providing pastoral outreach to those in need within our Haberfield community and also reach out to deliver broader social justice in our community, our nation and beyond.”

At our parish planning day held on 2 February 2020, ten themes were identified as priorities for the development of a parish Strategic Plan:

1. Engage with **Young People** – through establishment of a youth ministry in the parish with a welcoming contemporary mass and youth group
2. Create a new ministry of **Pastoral Care** – to coordinate support within the parish community for older and other parishioners in need as well as establishing younger family groups and other new activities
3. Embed **Social Justice** –in the parish community through developing a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Justice teaching among parishioners and providing outreach and social justice activities
4. Build **strong School – Church connections** – with common and shared liturgical and sacramental programs
5. Establish a **welcoming culture** with improved communication in the Parish – with greater inclusion and regular communication through a range of social and other media channels
6. Outreach to the **wider community** – with people from other denominations and faiths in the community
7. Develop **Faith and Spirituality** – through faith formation programs catering for people at different stages and faith experiences
8. Make our **Mass experience** more engaging – with greater inclusion and modern technologies
9. Change up the **Music ministry** – to broaden diversity of music
10. Establish a **male group in parish** to provide support and social events.

Pastoral Associate role created

As a result of these priorities, a new part-time Parish role of Pastoral Associate was created and advertised with Maria Condello commencing work in the role in October. Her priorities are to assist the Parish Priest to provide leadership within the parish and support him in the pastoral care of the Parish and in the building up of our community of faith. Here at St Joan of Arc this will be in line with the Parish Vision that we are welcoming to all, in fellowship with Jesus Christ and one another, and offering this love and service to the wider community.

How was the draft strategic plan developed?

The Pastoral Council invited over thirty parishioners to meet in small planning groups to develop the key actions, timeframes across the next three years and expected outcomes that will form the detailed actions of the Parish Strategic Plan. These meetings took place over September, October and November. The planning groups reported back to the Pastoral Council who further considered the plan prior to its release now for consultation until February 2021.

Updating the Parish Census

There was consensus from many planning groups that the first task was an update of the Parish Census. This would be done through a personalised letter from Fr Phil to be mailed out to all existing parishioners asking them to confirm their details, followed by encouraging all sacramental families and new parishioners to register as well.

Feedback on the strategic plan

The plan includes actions to be undertaken in the short term (next three months), the next year or over the three year life of the plan. Please read the draft plan and provide your feedback on the proposed actions using the form on the last page. Your feedback is due by 5 February 2021.

St Joan of Arc Parish Strategic Plan Actions

Priority Area	Short Term – Next three months	Medium Term – 2021	Over the next three years
Engage with Young People	Create, advertise and appoint a part-time youth minister.	Invite youth in the parish to provide input on planning and delivery of our youth ministry .	Led by the youth minister, entrust younger parishioners with tasks in the liturgy, local service via Vinnies, social justice and wider parish activities.
Create Pastoral Care ministry	<p>Compile a list of Catholic Services available (e.g.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CatholicCare • St Vincent de Paul • Local parish volunteers <p>to go into the welcome pack being prepared by the Welcoming Culture team.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting with CatholicCare on 30 January 2021 to workshop ideas on how to reach out to older / isolated parish members. 2. Build newlywed community through invitations to a gathering for ‘new families’ (maybe all those married at SJA in a given year) - annual mass and social event. 3. Build new family groups post-Baptism through invitations to picnic / playgroups with fellowship (bringing babies). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish to proactively seek to lead Haberfield Christian Carols December 2021. • Build family groups within the parish with activities including Picnic in the park; Movie nights; Sausage sizzle after mass; Father and children’s mass; Annual Tennis afternoon or golf day; Craft or knitting sessions.
Embed Social Justice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build a greater understanding of Catholic Social Teaching through homilies, bulletin and social media. 2. Social Justice Group continue to identify and promote annual timetable of Social Justice events from Social Justice Diary with aim to have one local Haberfield SJA event; one broader Haberfield community event; one global awareness raising . 	Increase support for Social Justice activities and understanding for campaigns through the Social Justice Group running a Social Justice Forum in 2021 over one day with speakers / table discussions about a range of topics.	Hold Climate Change Forum with other faith groups in Haberfield so that parishioners and members of other neighbourhood faith groups can explore this important Social Justice topic together.

<p>Build strong School – Church connections</p>	<p>Advertising school/parish events in relevant newsletters or via special notices.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Celebrating Family Masses once a term with classes that do not make a Sacrament in the year. 2. Have Year Masses for students from both SJA and public schools with children given tasks and roles during Mass, followed by a morning tea afterwards. 	<p>Parish Based Sacramental Program.</p>
<p>Establish a welcoming culture</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop social media content targeting young people and families advising of baptisms and marriages and including content about the catechist program. 2. Make the experience of attending Mass more welcoming with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcomers/greeters at the doors when people arrive for Mass; • asking everyone to greet & swap names with those seated near them at beginning of Mass; • giving new/returning parishioners a welcome brochure with parish information including services; • developing a registration form for new parishioners to be given to them on arrival at Mass by the welcomer/greeter (also online); • creating a section in the front pews for young families with colouring material; • recognise welcoming role of Piety Stall staff. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revamp parish website to reflect an active, dynamic and vital parish that engages with its parishioners and the broader community. 2. Build our understanding of why people participate in parish life by conducting a survey of school/catechist families and others who identify as Catholic and ask them what is missing from parish life. 3. Use all available forms of communication to highlight what is happening in the parish including emailing bulletin to all parishioners, developing flyers and letterbox drops on an as needs basis, maintaining social media sites, and tap into local Catholic and public schools to explore how to get information into school newsletters etc. 4. Explore celebrating regular bilingual masses 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rebadge Social Committee as the Hospitality and Events Committee or Welcome and Events Committee with its remit broadened to focus on welcome, warmth and hospitality. 2. Improved infrastructure – change front doors of church, develop friendly welcoming signage (including electronic sign at front of church), provide undercover facilities for parish events that are sun, rain and wind safe with improved kitchen facilities.

<p>Outreach to the wider community</p>	<p>Build on Fr Phil's initial meeting with ministers from other Christian Faiths in Haberfield and develop an ongoing relationship through regular meetings.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish "Inter-Church Prayer Roster" whereby we all pray for a particular Church community- e.g., Week 1 - all Churches pray for St David's Uniting Church, Week 2 - St Oswald's, Week 3 - the Baptist Church, Week 4 - St Joan of Arc, Week 5 – all people of faith. 2. Multi-faith Christmas carols to happen on an annual basis, with the four churches to host on a rotation (post-Covid). 3. Support, sustain and promote the annual World Day of Prayer. 	<p>Establish a regular (perhaps biannual) series of guest speakers/discussion groups to discuss common interests (social justice, scripture, history etc).</p>
<p>Develop Faith and Spirituality through faith formation programs catering for people at different stages and faith experiences</p>	<p>Support continuation of existing prayer opportunities like Advent and Lent Daily Prayer booklets and promote Lenten discussion groups.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once a month retreat to complete Way of the Heart – Pope's Worldwide Prayer network to be offered on a Friday evening each month from February 2021. 2. Research Alpha and assess its potential for us. 3. Explore opportunities for Bible Study Programs. 	<p>Continue to research other programs and sources which can be introduced to the Parish as opportunities for personal growth in faith. These may include: Taize, Christian meditation, Guest speakers, Eucharistic Adoration, Talking Tables, Parish Renewal Weekend, Robert Falzon – Mens Ministry, Coffee and Catholic Education.</p>
<p>Make our Mass experience more engaging</p>	<p>Through parish education via Fr Phil taking opportunities within the liturgy to explain the 'what and why' of different elements; using the bulletin, website and social media to explain liturgical seasons & the significance of various feast days; and to run explicit</p>	<p>Through prayer by continuing to make links to feast days, community days and the global church through the prayers of the faithful, and opening/ closing prayers; reintroducing Christian Meditation; when we can reintroduce the</p>	<p>Through physical change by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider angling the pews in a more 'V' formation to increase connection and engagement; • highlighting the altar - explore ways to emphasise the vertical axis (sculpture/ light);

	workshops for those involved in ministries (and other interested parties) eg. scripture, music, interfaith dialogue.	Offertory Procession, inviting individuals/ families to sign up in advance to encourage participation and creating a parish liturgical calendar to support more forward planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repositioning the ambo – table of the word closer to the people; • occasionally read the Gospel from the middle of the congregation; • replacing fluoro tubes with LED lights under the pelmets to allow for variations in lighting; • removing/ replacing carpet; • systematically re-varnishing the pews.
Change up the Music ministry	Invite parishioners to get involved in music as well as other ministries.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with Youth Engagement group to seek school involvement on a rotational basis. 2. Restart Congregational Singing. 	Investigate the possibility of an organ scholarship – 2 year commitment.
Establish a male group in parish	Provide personal invitations to male members of the parish to attend a Mass and social event.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with the men of the parish to determine the level of interest and participation in a male group and possible activities. 2. Commence a regular fellowship gathering quarterly, where we have a guest speaker or a theme. 	

Feedback on the St Joan of Arc Parish Strategic Plan Actions

Which action(s) do you like most in this plan?

Why?

Which action(s) do you like least in this plan?

Why?

Is there an important action or actions that we have missed in this plan?

The parish really needs all members of the parish community to help put these actions in place. How would you like to help us achieve this?

Name: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Please return your feedback to the box in the church, deliver it to a member of the parish staff in the presbytery or email your response to Maria in the parish office on Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au by Friday 5 February 2021.