

Good morning all, and in particular good morning Fr Phil,

My name is Peter Doyle and I am chair of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Today is a sad day for us here at St Joan of Arc, as we say goodbye to our beloved parish priest, Fr Phil Zadro.

Fr Phil came to us as our pastor seven years ago, and it is worth recalling the list of achievements that have occurred in that short time:

- a new Parish Pastoral Council was instituted;
- When Fr Phil came to St Joan of Arc we had a Liturgy Committee, Finance Committee and Social Committee, in addition to those Committees we now have a Social Justice Group, Welcome and Events Committee (the former Social Committee with a broader remit), a new Ministry of Liturgical Environment and we're in the process of establishing a Faith Formation Group.
- our Pastoral Associate Maria Condello was appointed;
- Tony Mediati was appointed as the Parish Safeguarding Support Officer with safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults at the front and centre of everything the parish does;
- a parish based sacramental program commenced and there is a lot of work being done to build connections with families;
- four Alpha programs have been run and we've held one Wild Goose program;
- there has been a focus on deepening our understanding about the Second Vatican Council and the encyclicals issued by Pope Francis;
- healing Masses are held on a quarterly basis;
- new volunteers are leading Children's Liturgy and we have 7 enthusiastic altar servers;
- regular school Masses are held and there is a very positive relationship with SJA School;
- Fr Phil and the Liturgy Committee are make greater use of slides, videos, the parish bulletin and the Facebook page to explain the Mass, reflect on liturgical seasons, and the significance of feast days and key dates in the Church calendar;
- a Parish General Meeting has been introduced and is held each November;
- a property in a nearby suburb was purchased to provide affordable housing;
- the parish is supporting a scholarship for an indigenous student at John Berne School at Lewisham;

- the parish has built connections with the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Edmund Rice Centre and the Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese;
- there is an annual collection for Jesuit Social Services which coincides with the World Day of the Poor; and
- Synodal Consulting has been engaged to work with the parish to help build on this momentum by embedding parish structures and fostering greater community engagement.

Fr Phil, you should be very pleased with what you have inspired, helped and guided in the formation of Christ's kingdom here in Haberfield. We are very grateful for you being with us and for your service to our community.

Without doubt St Joan of Arc Parish has been transformed under your spiritual leadership and guidance.

The word "synodal" is bandied around a lot in our church today, sometimes without due thought to its real meaning. For me personally, Fr Phil's leadership of our parish community is more assuredly synodal. You have engaged with us to make our parish a more engaged and spiritual community.

As you leave us now, be assured that you will be remembered at St Joan of Arc for many years to come.

We wish you a long, joyful and blessed retirement, so richly deserved after a half a century of service.

Please join with me in showing our appreciation to Father Phillip Zadro.