Parish Priest's Report for the AGM
2023/24

As you are aware this parish is one of largest parishes in the Archdiocese. The "Parish Social Profile based on the 2021 Australian Census" tells us that the Yangebup Parish has 13,984 catholic persons. There are total of 56,932 persons living in our Parish boundaries. We have just over 1200 Communicants at Mass on Sundays.

We have been fortunate that Fr. Nicholas Diedler has been appointed to the parish as our Assistant Priest. He as you know is very keen to learn and to be involved in the life and ministry of the Parish. He and I try to meet weekly to discuss our concerns or matters that arise each week.

Within the parish boundaries we have 2 parish primary schools - Mater Christi Catholic Primary and Hammond Park Catholic Primary. Emmanuel Catholic College is within the parish boundary. Also situated in the parish is the Divine Mercy College (this is an independent school).
Fr. Nicholas and I visit the two primary schools regularly and at the request of these schools celebrate Mass for the children, staff and families. We celebrate a weekly Mass at Emmanuel College for different "Houses" and the staff. The parish has a very strong PREP team who teach the children in the after-school programme. Fr. Nicholas and I enjoy visiting these classes on Wednesday evenings.

Located in the parish are two Nursing homes. Mass is celebrated at Frank Prendergast House – Success, twice a month. There is also a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion every Sunday. This is usually conducted by the Acolyte Bob Hopkins. We celebrate Mass at Regents Gardens - Aubin Grove, once a month. Theresa Abelha takes Holy Communion three Thursdays a month. The Legion of Mary also take Holy Communion to the Bibra Lake Homes very week. The Legion of Mary and some of the Acolytes take Holy Communion to those who are house bound.

Masses are celebrated Monday to Friday in the parish church and 50-80 people attend these Masses. There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday evening concluding with the Benediction. The Legion lead the Rosary and other prayers before most Masses. The parish has 5 Sunday Masses. There are on average 1200 people presenting for Holy Communion at the weekend Masses. During this year we have started celebrating a Mass at Hammond Park school hall. There is an average of 70 people attending this Mass each week. As a matter of interest we purchase 12,000 particles for Communion every two months.

The Parish has four paid staff. Helen Chew is the Bookkeeper, Michelle Sewell is the parish Secretary, Jo Mooney is the sacramental Coordinator and Yunita Lay is involved with liturgy.

Most of the meetings that happen in the parish are held every two months. These meetings include Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, Acolyte meetings, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Proclaimers of the Word and the Musicians. The Altar Servers meet several times a year. The Maintenance Committee meet when needed. The maintenance team with volunteers work around the parish every first Saturday of the month. The RCIA programme runs most Tuesday nights. The Charismatic Prayers group meet on a Wednesday night. There is a Bible study group that meets every fortnight to reflect on the following Sunday scripture readings. The youth meet twice a month on a Sunday night. The Youth Group is conducted by 24/7 Youth Ministry. An average of 15 youth attend this gathering. A Friendship Club meets every month at a different venue for a midday meal. We are fortunate to have a group of volunteers who count and bank the collections each week. The Baptism team organise the times for Baptisms and arrange the monthly Baptism preparation meetings.

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Every two months the Church and hall are utilised by the Jesus Youth, and the Evangels group use the church for their praise and worship on a regular basis. Other groups that meet in the parish are the Legion of Mary and the Vincent De Paul Society. These organisations are not parish based and are quite independent. They just utilise our facilities.

Fr. Nicholas and I interview parents who present their children for Baptism before they attend the monthly Baptism Course. We also conduct several appointments with those preparing for Marriage.

Some statistics regarding the Sacrament programmes

Baptisms	92
Reconciliations	140
First Communions	152
Confirmations	142
Funerals	8
Weddings	8
Anointing of the Sick. (Nursing homes monthly and on request)	

The present preparation for the sacraments does not seem to be attracting families to the practice of their faith. Fr. Nicholas and I are looking at another programme to improve this for the next year.

One of the challenges is to see if we can organise more social activities in the parish so that we can get to know one another and become a more welcoming community.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Nicholas, the Staff and all those involved in the various activities in the parish. Our involvement is building the Kingdom of God in our community and makes for a smooth operating of the parish. We all need to look at ways to involve others in the life and ministry of the Parish.

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