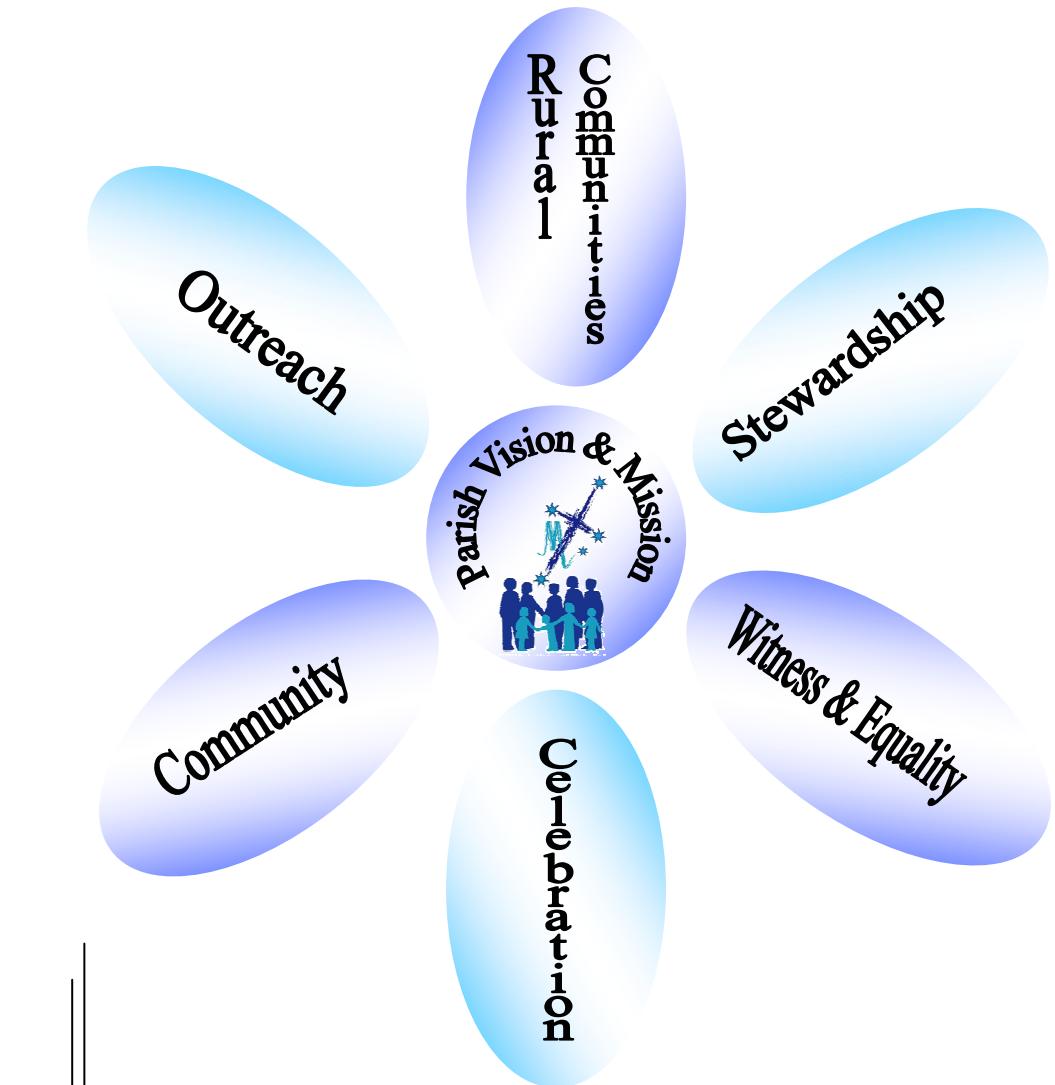


OLHC Parish Vision & Mission Team and the Two Parish Goals



The Initiatives.....
April 2008

Pastoral Planning Process

In August 2007 the Vision and Mission Team began to reflect on two of the areas from the Parish Profile in the National Church life Survey these have become goals for the Vision and Mission Team to develop a pastoral plan. These two goals received the

highest rating when parishioners identified areas of our parish that need more attention:

- 1. Building a stronger sense of community**
- 2. Helping people here to discover / use their gifts and talents.**

Our plan has seen the Vision and Mission team make personal contact with every group, organisation and ministry that operates within OLHC Parish – quite a job in itself! It involved inviting each of these groups / organisations / ministries to be part of the process that would see members of the Vision and Mission Team meet with each of the groups to work through the process at one of their regular meetings or a special meeting of that group. At the same time the Parish newsletter was used to inform all parishioners of the process and the areas of attention that the parishioners themselves had identified.

Initially each of the groups / organisations / ministries were asked to reflect on two questions that would begin the pastoral planning process:

- 1. How is your group already building a sense of community in our parish?**
- 2. How is your group already encouraging people here to discover / use their gifts?**

The second part of the process involved each group to name **one or two** initiatives they felt their group / organisation / ministry could do to:

- 1. Build a sense of community on our Parish?**
- 2. Encourage people here to discover / use their gifts?**

Since then, members of the Vision and Mission Team have met with a variety of different groups, their responses have been posted in the Church foyer making them accessible to the community. This booklet focuses on the initiatives of the pastoral planning process. Through this procedure the Vision and Mission Team hope to build a stronger sense of community in our parish and help people here discover and use their gifts .

Thank you

OLHC Vision and Mission Team thank;
all the groups / organizations / ministries
who have taken part in the pastoral planning
process.

The next stage is the implementation and
ongoing assessment phase.

Emerging Ministries

Easter/Christmas Cards

Name one or two initiatives that the Easter/Christmas Cards could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

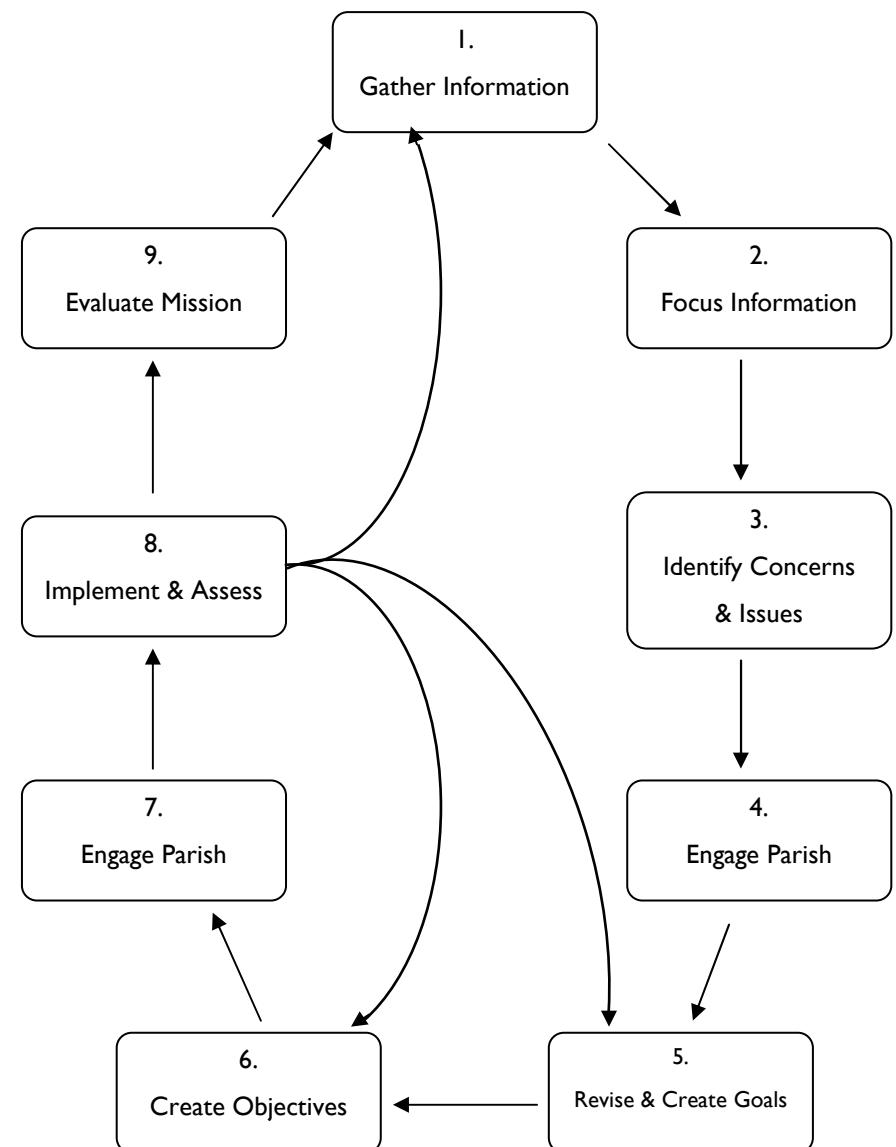
- Have articles from different parish groups.
- Zone coordinators for delivery in every zone.

Senior's Ministry

Name one or two initiatives that the Senior's Ministry could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- Social gathering for all involved in Senior's Ministry
- Recruitment drive for volunteers – now that we have been going for about 6 months we can give examples of the work we do.
- We could even get our partners involved (job sharing) show them how to garden!! Some potential volunteers may feel happier working in pairs.

Parish Pastoral Planning Cycle



Living our Gifts

Loving God,
author of all gifts;
**We praise you and thank you for all the gifts you have
entrusted to us.**

**Pour out your Spirit upon us
So that, true to our baptismal promises
We can build faith communities
Which recognise and promote the gifts in all people
so that we may all share in the mission of Jesus.**

**Inspire us to be a Church that is welcoming and accepting,
and which sees everyone as an expression of Christ.
May our faith communities nurture and commission all
Members to live our particular gifts as a reflection and
imitation of Jesus' life.**

**Give us the courage to be the light of welcome
in the darkness of exclusion,
a voice of gentleness in the wilderness of the unheard
and an outstretched hand of love to those longing for
community.**

Amen

Outreach

St Vincent de Paul

**Name one or two initiatives that St Vincent de Paul Conference
could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to
encourage people here to discover and use their gifts.**

- Encourage parishioners to be a volunteer. Giving them to do what Jesus said “if you do it to the least of my brothers or sisters, you do it for me.”
- Make a personal approach to people take on the above.

Visiting Team

**Name one or two initiatives that the Visiting Team could do to
build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people
here to discover and use their gifts?**

- A reflection day for all of the Parish outreach ministries – Caring Group, Funeral ministry, St Vincent de Paul, C.W.L., Exodus, to be held on Wednesday February 27th (Justin to invite Jo Russell to facilitate).
- A shared meeting of the outreach ministries to learn more about what each ministry does and how we can work together
- Developing our listening skills

Outreach

Funeral Ministry

What could happen in the future to build a sense of community?

- Exploration of a program that could be offered in the parish as support to the bereaved who may come together in groups
 - e.g. Seasons of Hope
- Provide information and education on Pre-paid Funerals / Wills/ Powers of Medical & Legal Attorneys
- Design and have printed a Parish Card that will be sent to families around the first anniversary of the death of their loved one

Name one or two initiatives that the funeral ministry could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- Talk to groups and people in the parish about the funeral ministry.

Rural Communities

Learmonth Community

What might be one or two initiatives that this community could do to build a sense of community in our parish?

- Being a rural community we sometimes feel excluded from some of the events that occur in the parish. We, as a rural community, need to bridge the gap, that we feel exists, by making our community aware of events that are happening in the parish and that they are more than welcome to attend or join in, e.g parish lunch, Christmas lights tour for seniors.
- Display Mass times at the Church and the local general store, for the benefit of new people in town and also visitors. By doing this we hope to make these people feel more welcome and a part of the community, not as an outsider.

What might be one or two initiatives that this community could do to encourage people here to discover or use their gifts?

- If some one is unaware, uneasy or unsure that they have gifts that may assist this community, then praise and thank them for their efforts which will help them in building up their self esteem.

Miner's Rest Community

What might be one or two initiatives that this community could do to build a sense of community in our parish?

- To build a sense of community in our parish, this community will be more outreaching to the newer housing estates, in the Miner's Rest area, by issuing a personal invite to existing parish census families to our monthly gathering.

What might be one or two initiatives that this community could do to encourage people here to discover or use their gifts?

- To thank the people in our community who offer their homes and to encourage others who attend our gathering regularly to discover that they too have the gift of sharing their home with others.

Stewardship

Counting Team

What might be one or two initiatives that your groups could do to build a sense of community in the parish?

- We could count at another time – perhaps other people would be available?

What might be one or two initiatives that your groups could do to encourage people here to use/ discover their gifts?

- Counting team members could approach a fellow parishioner about joining the team if they thought they might be a suitably interested person. It is a good way of being involved if someone doesn't know many people in the parish and finds a large group a bit challenging.

Weekly Parish Newsletter

Name one or two initiatives that the Parish newsletter Team could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- Trying a newsletter with larger print for vision impaired (perhaps A3)
- Seek feedback on how parishioners perceive the weekly newsletter – content, format, style...
- Have an open workshop to show people what we do in preparing the newsletter each week – computer, photocopying...

Explore how recently retired parishioners can continue to make good use of their skills in administration.

Outreach

Exodus Support Team

Name one or two initiatives that the Exodus Support Team could do to build a sense of community in our parish?

- Continue to keep Exodus on the radar – Parish Community needs to know more about Exodus, what Exodus is doing and why, more communication, financial support. Report on what the money is being spent on
- Brochure (professionally printed) with pictures to go out to the Corporate World / Schools for future sponsorship.

Name one or two initiatives that the Exodus Support Team could do to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- Have some people to speak and talk about their experiences with Exodus from their fears to their joys.
- A display of young people helping.

Exodus Community Leadership Team

Name one or two initiatives that you feel the Exodus Community Team could do to build a sense of community in our Parish?

- Conduct an Exodus Review. The Exodus Community was invited by OLHC Parish to begin Ministry in Wendouree four years ago. This Review will be conducted within the Parish Community with the focus on celebrating the journey over the last 4 years, identifying strengths and weaknesses and suggesting ways forward.

Name one or two initiatives that the Exodus Community Team could do to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- Weekend away for leaders on all Teams (Leadership Team, Support Team, House Team, Visitation Team, Family Activities Team, Camp and outings Team, Pastoral Care Team) with a view to developing and strengthening these Teams in Ministry. This weekend will be held in April with the theme "Change your Hearts".

Outreach

Catholic Women's League

Name one or two initiatives that the Catholic Women's League could do to build a sense of community in our parish?

- Sit in different areas of the church when attending Mass and speaking to people in our vicinity.
- After Mass be friendly and chat to people that maybe new/visitors to the parish.

Name one or two initiatives that the Catholic Women's League could do to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- Encourage younger women in the parish to join the Catholic Women's League by personal invitation.

Caring Group

Name one or two initiatives that the Caring Group could do to build a sense of community in our parish?

- Encourage the Parish Community to be involved in this very worthwhile ministry by having a roster of people willing to help out on the day.

Name one or two initiatives that the Caring Group could do to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- Offer invitations to Parishioners to join our friendly Caring Group
- Food handling & preparation course for people organizing and assisting in this ministry.

Stewardship

Finance Team

Name one or two initiatives that you feel the Finance Team could do to build a sense of community in our Parish and to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- Develop a clear, transparent process for funding Parish initiatives on behalf of the Parish. Guidelines could include that the funding proposal:

- builds a sense of community
- encourages people here to discover/use their gift
- is innovative.

Comment: The conversation between PVMT and the Finance Team needs to be ongoing, at least once or twice a year.

Properties

What might be one or two initiatives that this group could do to build a sense of community in our parish?

- The properties team needs to redefine what their group does, now that OLHC Church and the area outside are completed. Once this has been discussed, they will then let the parish community know just what this group does through the parish Masses.

What might be one or two initiatives that this community could do to encourage people here to discover or use their gifts?

- An initiative that this group feels they could do is to invite 6-10 people, who have skills this group can utilize, to be available to help out when needed. They don't have to attend meetings if they are unable to do so. For this group to be more encouraging when these people do use their gifts, no matter how often they can be of assistance

Witness & Equality

Justice Ministry

Name one or two initiatives that the justice ministry could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people here to discover / use their gifts?

- Hosting a parish multicultural celebration on the Feast of Pentecost with Saturday 6.00 pm Mass (Saturday May 10th 2008), followed by a meal at which the variety of cultural foods is shared. This event could integrate the parish's liturgical life with its social life and affirm and celebrate the diversity of cultures present in our community.

By sharing each other's food we might help to recognise each one's presence and enable a sharing of their gifts through acceptance, inclusivity and the "power" of the shared meal.

R.C.I.A.

Name one or two initiatives that the R.C.I.A. could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage

people here to discover and use their gifts?

- "It still goes on without the community knowing its happening
– have people share their stories."
- Widen the number of people to be Catechists to lead the dismissals during Masses, most people are happy to lead.
- When we have an enquiry, gather all the people involved in the R.C.I.A team together over a meal and chat about what is happening (people are asked to do things but never come together to be nourished spiritually). Rediscover and use their gifts; Catechists have different stages of life and may need other assistance; people need downtime.

Community

Crackerjack Family Group

Name one or two initiatives that you feel the Crackerjack Group could do to build a sense of community in our Parish?

- Promote the value of family groups to others in our community

"Time out" Family Group

Name one or two initiatives that you feel the "Time out" Family Group could do to build a sense of community in our Parish?

- Encourage others to join Family Groups e.g. Invitation to come to meet and talk, an information night of introduction.

Name one or two initiatives that the "Time out" Family Group could do to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- Cuppa after Mass once a month, in the Church foyer. Perhaps other parish groups could participate.

Y Worry Family Group

Name one or two initiatives that you feel the Y Worry "Time out" Family Group could do to build a sense of community in our Parish?

- To possibly build or co-operate to build a parish event.

Name one or two initiatives that the Y Worry "Time out" Family Group could do to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- Encourage people to suggest activities and to be a part of different activities.

Celebration

Sacristans Team

Name one or two initiatives that you feel the Sacristans Team could do to build a sense of community in our Parish?

- Sacristans to become more consciously aware of asking people to participate in liturgical ministries who are not already involved in other liturgical ministries eg. proclaiming the Word. Be aware of not taking the easy way out and inviting those one knows or who always say “yes”.

Name one or two initiatives that the Sacristans Team could do to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- Each sacristan “pair” to personally invite and train another person who is able to be an emergency (a buddy system). This would enable others to join the ministry at a later date if they so desire or to use their gift of sacristan on an occasional basis without committing to a roster.

As this is the first time that the group has met, organisational issues arose:

- It is important that if people are on duty roster that they feel empowered to complete **all** responsibilities. These responsibilities could be attached to the duty roster.
- It is important that sacristans communicate with the Liturgy

Team especially around Easter and Christmas so as to brief each other on any special plans, ideas and changes prior to the liturgy. This would be very helpful.

- Meeting together has confirmed the need to occasionally gather together to affirm each other in the ministry and to air common issues and concerns.

Thanks to Maureen Connelly for her ongoing support and organisation.

Celebration

Altar Servers

Name one or two initiatives that the Altar Servers could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- The young people could be encouraged to participate, with the school assembly a good start, discussion in the classroom.
- To be a choice of the child, parents can put a bit of pressure on the child, fulfilling the parents wishes not the child's
- More information at Church on the importance of what these children do.
- Encourage the young people, how many parishioners notice that their are Altar Servers present?

We would like to see the Altar Servers continue in their Ministry.

Baptism Team

What might be one or two initiatives that your group could do to build a sense of community in the parish?

- With the parents' permission, we could display photos of the actual baptism after the event, in the gathering space. These photos would be named and dated. We would like to take these photos ourselves to avoid acquiring photos from busy parents. In order for this to happen smoothly we will be looking to access a “parish digital camera” and a small space on the parish display board.

Godstart

What might be one or two initiatives that your groups could do to build a sense of community in the parish?

- We will invite newly Baptised children and their families to a picnic together.
- We will share this commitment with more people in the parish.

Celebration

Gentle Dove Prayer

Name one or two initiatives that the Gentle Dove Prayer group could do to build a sense of community in our parish and to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- In the past, on behalf of the diocese, we have facilitated the 'rally' where everyone is invited to prayer and praise—this involved speakers. Also, in the past we have held a "Life in the Spirit seminar" - an 8 week program of 'renewal'. The seminar involves a lot of organisation, as a group we feel a bit "past it". However, we found this very rewarding and renewing, so we will pray about it and perhaps we can present the seminar on a more "low key" level
- We could publicise our **prayer-line** more by sharing with others its scope and significance. This might involve speaking after Mass. We need to update our pray-line cards and make sure they are accessible to parishioners.
- At the beginning of the year we could speak out at Mass about our charismatic prayer group—to inform others about the group—it has been in existence for 30 years!! We could advertise the times that we meet. Tuesdays 10am– 11:30am that may or may not begin with a Tuesday Mass.

Name one or two initiatives that the Gentle Dove Prayer group could do to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- We could use our gifts of "hospitality" and invite people individually to our cuppa and perhaps we could forego the actual prayer meeting so we can spend a more relaxed time with our invited guests.
- We could reintroduce and focus on "Prayers for Healing"

Celebration

Liturgy Preparation

Name one or two initiatives that you feel the Liturgy Team could do to build a sense of community in our Parish?

- Hold an Open Day in the Church, hosted by the Liturgy Team, where all are given the opportunity to explore ministries and gain a greater understanding of their church "it is your Church – come and get to know your Church". Form a "Friends of the Liturgy Team".

Name one or two initiatives that the Liturgy Team could do to encourage people here to discover/use their gifts?

- Affirm people in their gifts and encourage them to use their gifts in the community – advertise/encourage/invite personally.
- Run "Familiarisation of Equipment" sessions, especially technology

Sacrament Program

Name one or two initiatives that the Sacramental Team could do to build a sense of community in our parish?

- Facilitate a bigger commitment from parents who have enrolled their children in the program.

Name one or two initiatives that the Sacramental Team could do to encourage people here to discover and use their gifts?

- Have a recruitment drive for preparation day's leaders and liturgy of the Word leaders during Mass.