



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

*Welcome to the annual report of the Pastoral Council of the Parish of Sts Peter and Paul,
a synopsis of the year 2011 in our very busy parish.*

Parish Vision

Our parish vision is: To be an active and welcoming parish community which embraces '*Jesus, Communion, Mission*' to continue the work of Jesus in ways that are relevant to the wider community in which we live.

History of the Parish of Sts Peter and Paul

The parish of Sts Peter and Paul is an old family, with a lovely rich history. The land for our first timber church was gifted by the Hon A J Thynne in 1896, our first parish priest was appointed in 1915 and we became a parish in 1916, and our existing Church, a memorial to Fr Joseph Canali, was built and opened ten years later in 1926. In traditional generation terms there are six generations of families connected to our parish.

Our Parish Family Today

Today we have 2040 families and 5950 individual members of the parish. We are blessed as a family of God to be able to join together in worship each Sunday, offering thanksgiving and praise, and also celebrating other major liturgical feasts throughout the year. It is a pleasure to witness the children being an active part of our parish community, a comfort to recognise fellow parishioners across the pews, and a joy getting to know each other as friends. These personal connections are what makes the parish Sts Peter and Paul such a rich and wonderful Christian community. One good example in 2011 was our annual parish dinner with increased numbers sharing an environment of friendship and fun.

This year many parishioners and their family and friends have come together to share joyous sacraments where memories and history are made, and at times of sadness when the end of life's journey is celebrated. This year we celebrated 162 Baptisms for children and adults, 62 Confirmation and First Communions, 68 First Penance, 28 Weddings, and we farewelled a total of 33 people at Funerals.

Parish Activities

This year has again been a busy and participative time with many groups working tirelessly to enrich our parish community.

In the area of Pastoral Ministry, we welcomed new members to the parish, and provided hospitality and activities for all ages through playgroup, youth ministry, the bereaved and the aged. Visitation and communion were provided to the sick and home-bound, as well as transport and casseroles when needed. Much practical help was also given through the St Vincent de Paul Society during the year and particularly at Christmas with food hampers and presents.

Many hands have assisted in Liturgical Ministry through liturgical planning, reading of scripture, distribution of communion, altar serving, making music and singing, facilitating children's liturgy, welcoming parishioners at the church door, taking up collections, and preparing and decorating the church.

Our educational needs and growth were enabled and encouraged through parish baptism and sacramental preparation, the RCIA for adults, faith discussion groups for Lent and Easter, meditation and prayer groups, a social justice group, a successful Men Alive weekend, e-Conferences, and the theology studies undertaken by a number of parishioners. We have also enjoyed a close collaboration with the school, Sr Ann-Maree Nichols its principal, the teachers and students as they continue 'learning together for life'.

Practical assistance was provided to administrative duties through parish and finance council planning, assistance in counting, office help, and organising big events such as our parish dinner and Christmas carols.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same God who activates all of them in everyone of us. (1 Cor 12:4)

Physical Environment

We are fortunate to have wonderful facilities on the site and this year welcomed the School's new 'Good Samaritan Hall'. Our parish hall had provided the space for over 400 meetings and events this year including; Drop in Friday, Playgroup, Meditation Groups, Italian Rosary group, Good Samaritan Sisters Meetings, Youth Groups, Baptism Preparation, support for the bereaved at funerals, RCIA meetings, and many others.

Challenges

This year we have been challenged as parishioners and musicians through the introduction of the new Mass responses and their music settings. We are thankful to Father Tom for providing such thought provoking homilies to prepare us and help us gain an understanding of the changes.

We are looking forward already to celebrating our parish centenary in 2016 which will also be the 90th anniversary of our church building. We are trying to plan ahead, recognising that there is significant maintenance that needs to be undertaken to restore our beautiful place of worship for the next two or three generations of parishioners. We are thinking and praying together so that we will use well this

opportunity to enhance the church building and undertake practical building maintenance. The parish council welcomes your ideas, support and guidance in this new journey.

Leadership

We are very fortunate to have the liturgical leadership and pastoral service provided by Father Tom Elich, our parish priest. We appreciate his theological learning and practical Christian guidance from his homilies. Thank you, too, to our pastoral associate, Sister Mary Randle, a Bulimba local who has worked in ministries throughout Australia and overseas for many years. We are incredibly fortunate to have Sister Mary in such a pivotal role within our community, offering tireless guidance, support and pastoral care.

Parishioner Participation and Thank You

This year – as for many years – the running of such an active parish has been assisted by dozens of generous parishioners,

giving their time and sharing their skills to celebrate their love of God in support of our community. It would be impossible to mention by name all those who have contributed but, on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council and all the members of the Parish of Sts Peter and Paul, I thank you sincerely.

Working Together

As in all families, our faith community is continually learning from our experiences and striving to improve. We do so much very well but we are open to exploring ways to improve everything we do and to recognise new opportunities. Please be active in your opinions and thoughts, and share with us your good ideas for the coming year.

God Bless!

Deb Waldron, *Chairperson*
Sts Peter and Paul Parish Pastoral Council