

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM THE ST FRANCIS TEAM

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE LAST YEAR

Early in 2020 a group was formed with the consent of Fr Emile to coordinate activities happening at St Francis and to fill in any gaps that arose. We called ourselves the St Francis team and during the 2020 lockdown worked hard to contact parishioners in our immediate geographical area. We also met regularly on zoom during the lockdown for liturgy and prayer.

The group consists of 13 people who meet regularly to discuss what needs to be done and to initiate activities to benefit the community. We are a cooperative team where everyone takes responsibility for their own aspects of interest and leadership is shared. Anyone interested can join us at any stage.

Since Covid we have studied what Pope Francis has asked the Church to do and have come up with four areas of concern. These were detailed in an article published in the Tablet in May 2020 called "Post Covid Catholicism". These 4 areas have provided the basis for our focus.

- a. Mission Outreach
- b. Care for the Earth
- c. Care for the Poor
- d. Creative liturgy/Pastoral awareness (care for people young and old)

Over the past year we have attempted to undertake actions from each of these areas:

Missionary outreach

Pope Francis says: "Do not waste time and resources in looking at yourself in a mirror, devising plans centred on internal mechanisms, functionality and the efficiency of your own bureaucracy. Look outside."

- Reaching out and strengthening the fellowship amongst the Saint Francis Catholic Community.
- Initial planning for the running of an Alpha programme.
- Connecting with young families.

Care for the Earth

- There is an active environmental protection movement on the Peninsula, which offers substantial resources for participation by our community.
- setting traps within the Church grounds and removal of noxious plants.
- Garden maintenance through working bees.

Care for the Poor

- Supporting de Paul House and Far North communities by grocery collections.
- Plans in place for another major drive for food for the poor.
- Parishioners active in supporting Serving Spoons.

Creative Liturgy

- Developing the liturgy at Saint Francis by being responsible for music, readers, sacristans, and children's liturgy.
- Exercising active discipleship in liturgy rather than being passive consumers.
- Running of a Caritas Lenten programme.
- Running of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Pastoral Awareness

- social occasions such as Pizza gathering for young families in the Gulf Harbour area.
- Development of effective communication. We assembled a database of contact details of those within our community to use in case of lockdown. This was used in the recent Level 3 and several people mentioned how nice it was to be contacted.

At a recent meeting, our major concerns centred around the need to support Fr Raphael given that he no longer has any deacons to help him. We discussed what we see as an urgent need to appoint either a parish worker, a youth worker or both. The thought was that perhaps parishioners could sponsor part of the cost of employment of these workers.

We also feel it is very necessary to form a funeral group who will help in the planning of funerals so that the responsibility for these does not fall on the Priest alone.

Catherine Birt for the St Francis team