

Parish Consultation Sessions

Intention:

- **to enable the parishioners to reflect, listen and share about their individual and common future**
- **to enhance growth in a synodal spirituality of listening and mutual respect**
- **to model and encourage co-responsibility of every parish member**

The Goal of the process

- **it is to form a new community where everyone living in the existing parishes can feel they belong.**
- **it invites us to learn to come together and be attentive to the Holy Spirit,**
- **it asks us to be drawn beyond the differences and ideological boundaries that tend to polarize**
- **It wants us to find unity in diversity.**

Prayer

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

**Take a few minutes to reflect on the
scripture reading pondering the question**

**"What are my gifts?" and provide an
opportunity to share (small groups)**

What does amalgamation mean?

Four parishes become a single parish.

The parish would have a new name.

Transferred to the new parish:

- *Assets*
- *Liabilities*
- *Archives*
- *Records and registers*

Each church maintains its name.

Each school maintains its name.



What are the advantages of amalgamation?

Take the way of the Gospel

- *Vibrant*
- *Vital*
- *Viable*

Flexibility and agility

- *Build the parish of the future*

Less duplication of resources:

- *One annual financial statement*
- *One ACNC return;*
- *One administration package*

More efficient use of human and financial resources



What are the feelings associated with amalgamation?

- Excitement
- Loss
- Opportunity
- Uncertainty
- Anguish
- Confusion



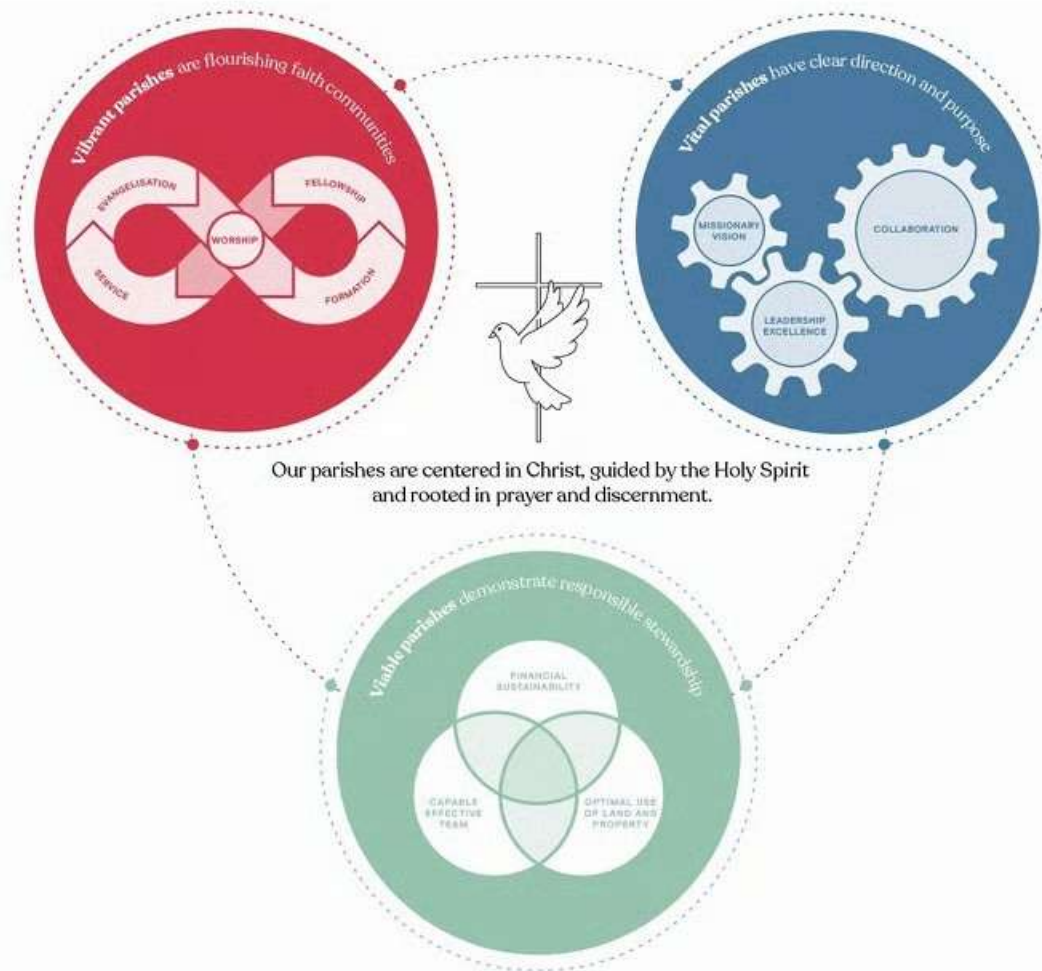
We believe amalgamation provides the best opportunity to achieve our vision for our parish community.

The Church in the twenty-first century:

New challenges call for new responses

- We live in a multi-cultural and multi-faith world
- Less than 50 per cent of Australians identify as Christian
- Many Melbourne parishes were established in the mid twentieth century and will not remain viable into the future
- Pope Francis is calling for a Church renewal that cannot be deferred
The Parish is not an outdated institution precisely because it possess great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.(EG 28)
- Archdiocese of Melbourne – [Take the Way of the Gospel](#)

Take the Way of the Gospel Framework for Parish Renewal



Over the last three weeks of bulletins, we have read about being a Vital, Vibrant, Viable Parish

In many ways we are already these three things.....

Let us share some stories about our Parish community:

- **who have we been - what is our rich history**
- **who are we – what's working to support us in faith**
- **what do we want continued**
- **what could we let go**

Gifts of our Parish (40 mins)

In small groups

Round 1 -

- **What gifts does our parish bring to the community here? (write top 3 on post it notes and collate)**

Round 2 -

- **What are we good at? (write top 3 on post it notes and collate)**

Round 3 -

- **Where are there opportunities? (write top 3 on post it notes and collate)**

WHAT WE HAVE CURRENTLY 1. 1 x Parish Office 2. 1 x Calendar 3. 1 x Web Site 4. 1 x Bulletin 5. 2 x email addresses for all office contact 6. 1 x Accountant 7. 1 x PLT 8. 1 x Liturgy Group 9. 3x Finance Teams 10. 2 x Baptism Teams 11. 4 x Primary Schools 12. 1 x Earthcare group 13. 1 x RCIA Team 14. 1 x RCIC Team	WHAT WE HAVE DONE AS A MISSION PARISH 1. Easter Ceremonies across all the churches 2. Christmas Ceremonies across all the churches 3. Combined choirs for parish feast days 4. Each Sacrament celebrated as one by the schools 5. Principals, REL's and Parish Priest meeting regularly 6. Walks across the parish churches for a united cause 7. Volunteers Dinner 8. Italian Lunch	9. Weekday Masses at each Church 10. 2 x Anointing Masses 11. Elderly morning teas 12. Italian Bingo groups	
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FINANCES

1. All finances will be amalgamated under one ABN, which will cut down on doubling up work in the office.
2. 3 x counting teams will stay
3. Envelopes, DD, CC payments will be reorganized but still reflect each parishes donations

NAME

1. In a few weeks a process will be explained how every parishioner can submit a new name for the whole Parish to be considered.
2. Each church will retain their current name.

CONSULTATION

1. After this first meeting in our own community groups we will then come together as a whole and have a 2nd meeting.
2. After these consultative meetings Fr Shabin and the transition team will have a feeling about the mood of the communities.

CURRENT ASSETS

1. All current parishes are financial viable.
2. There are no current loans at any parish.
3. Each parish has property that is rented commercially.
4. Each parish has a group of people who oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the properties
5. Each parish has money invested at CDF which is providing very good interest.

LEADERSHIP

1. The PLT has reps from each community who work with Fr Shabin to consider the way forward for our Combined Parish.
2. The Office staff will need to expand to cope with the growing numbers of funerals and baptisms.
3. Liturgy Team reps from all parishes