

Benefits of a Merger

- ☐ Building a shared identity while respecting our unique identities and histories
- ☐ Providing fresh energy & commitment to live out our vision & mission
- ☐ Strengthening our combined ability to flourish as a community of faith and action into the future, given changes in demographics and pastoral needs, enabling us to plan and deliver the services and facilities required by our community in the coming years
- ☐ Consolidating resources & streamlining finance and administration

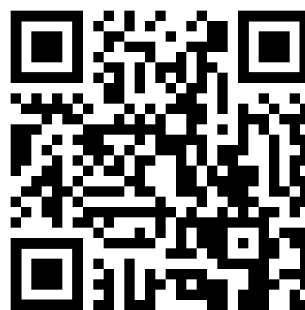
**Strengthening
our ability to be a
vibrant,
vital & viable
faith community**

Challenges facing our **Vibrancy, Vitality & Viability**

Vibrant	Fewer priests Assistant Priest appointed to another parish Fewer people actively involved in parish life
Vital	Fewer priests Assistant Priest appointed to another parish Fewer people actively involved in parish life Increased administrative work
Viable	Fewer people actively involved in parish life Increased administrative work Duplication of finance operations Decreasing finances Ability to generate a secure self-sustaining income to support parish missions and responsibilities

Communicating questions & comments

1. Online QR code



2. Question Box in foyer

3. email

email Sacred Heart: alisonpieper52@gmail.com
 email St Mary's : ppcstmgreensborough@gmail.com
 email St Thomas : timjholland@hotmail.com

Our Story

Beginning as one and now coming back together as one.



- ☐ In **1914 Sacred Heart Parish** covered Watsonia, Greensborough, Diamond Creek, Eltham, Montmorency, Warrandyte, Arthur's Creek, Panton Hill, Queenstown and Kinglake.
- ☐ In **1955 St Mary's** was declared a parish.
- ☐ In **1986 St Thomas** was declared a parish, growing out of St Mary's.
- ☐ In **2012 Sacred Heart Parish & St Thomas** partnered parishes.
- ☐ In **2017 Sacred Heart Parish & St Thomas & St Mary's** partnered parishes.

Vibrant Parishes

“Flourishing faith communities that actively nurture a culture of worship, evangelisation, formation, fellowship and service”.

(Take the Way of the Gospel)

How are we doing this?

- Participation in Take the Way of the Gospel
- Collaborative support for our priests
- Two Pastoral Associates
- Liturgy Teams planning together
- Social Justice Teams working collaboratively
- Shared formation in ministries
- Shared formation in leadership teams
- Shared opportunities for spiritual and personal growth
- Shared liturgies
- Prayer groups
- Outreach to community organisations
- Support groups
- Shared social events
- Information sessions on various topics
- Faithful group of volunteers who contribute their skills across all aspects of parish life

Vital Parishes

“Faith communities with clear direction and purpose. They have a shared missionary vision, display leadership excellence and work collaboratively to pursue their vision”.

(Take the Way of the Gospel)

How are we doing this?

- Parish Pastoral Councils in each parish
- Formation of Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council
- Strategic Planning Committee for the partnership
- Pastoral Associates working across the partnership
- Collaborative work between the primary schools including shared faith formation sessions for families
- Collaborative work between ministries and leadership teams
- Shared administration staff
- One newsletter

Viable Parishes

“Faith communities that demonstrate responsible stewardship. They have capable and effective teams, are financially sustainable and make optimal use of land and property in order to fulfil the vision and mission of the community”.

(Take the Way of the Gospel)

How are we doing this?

- Responsible and effective Pastoral Councils
- Combined Finance Committee for the partnership
- Active investigations on ways to generate a self-sustaining, reliable source of income into the future
- Decisions taken about use of parish property to contribute towards income
- Adherence to all legislation that affects personnel who work towards the vision and mission of the partnership and those who come onto any parish land or properties
- Consolidation and streamlining of administrative and financial activities