

SOME FAQs ABOUT PARISH AMALGAMATION

What does Parish Amalgamation mean for us?

- For us, “Parish Amalgamation” means merging all aspects of Parish Communities and Churches together, to become a new single parish. We will be a single Parish with three Churches.
- The new Parish entity will be responsible for all the property, records, assets and liabilities that were the responsibility separately before amalgamation.

What is the difference between Partnered Parishes and Amalgamated Parishes?

- Partnered Parishes are a collection of two or more individual Parishes that share a Priest or Priests. Each Parish is responsible for its own property, records, assets and liabilities.
- Amalgamated Parishes are Parishes that have multiple Churches and shared Priest(s), but are responsible for the property, records, assets and liabilities of all the Churches merged together.

How was the decision reached for our Parishes to amalgamate?

- Our parishes have been working together in partnership for 18 years. There has been increased collaboration during this time including sharing a Priest. During the partnership over recent years we have experienced a strengthening of our community and forming one parish will help us create a vital, vibrant and viable community.

Why are we amalgamating?

- We are not amalgamating out of helplessness but out of positivity to build a more VIBRANT, VITAL and VIABLE parish.

Will our Churches remain open?

- Once amalgamated our Parish will have 3 Mass centres (Churches). We have not explored the future needs for Church buildings, other property and financial resources. Over time we will need to review how our resources are serving our mission in this local area.

Will Mass times be impacted?

- We will not be reviewing Mass times as part of this process however Mass times may need to be reviewed in the future.

Will the Churches keep their names?

- The churches will retain their holy names.

- As an amalgamated Parish, we will follow a consultation process to identify a Parish name reflective of our community and mission.

How do I get involved in the amalgamation process?

- Your interest in the process the best way for you to get involved is to participate in the consultation.
- The Parish Transition Team will communicate with the Parish community, record progress throughout the process, and report on the progress of the amalgamation.

What is the cost of the amalgamation?

- There will be no cost in the amalgamation

When will the amalgamation take place?

- We will confirm the timeline as planning progresses, hopefully it will be completed by the end of 2026.

Who can I speak to if I need more information?

- There will be opportunity for ask our Transition Team any questions you may have in relation to the process.
- There will be opportunity to ask questions during the consultation sessions.
- For those who would like to have a chat, our Parish Priest or Transition Team will be available at different times.

Where can we find out more information?

- You can find out more information from the following places:
 - Parish website
 - Parish noticeboards
 - Printed material in Church foyers / Newsletter

Where will the Parish Office be located?

- The office will remain at St Augustine's Parish.

Will the signage boards outside each Church be changed to reflect the new Parish?

- The signage boards will continue to display the name of each individual Church but will also have reference to new parish name

Will Certificates for Sacraments (e.g. Baptism Certificates) have the name of the individual Church where the ceremony took place on them, or only the name of the new Parish?

- Both. The sacramental certificates will have the name of the individual Church where the ceremony took place, and the new Parish name, on them.

Are there any disadvantages to the amalgamation?

- None that we have been able to identify.

Will there be only one bank account for the new Parish?

- Yes, both existing bank accounts will be consolidated into a new account for the Parish this will help the parish manage a single set of accounts and reduce bank charges and associated fees.

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How are our Clergy coping and what support is the Archdiocese providing?

- Our Transition Team will continue to do our best to assist our Clergy and provide the necessary feedback to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to ensure the necessary support can be provided.

Will church properties be sold after amalgamation?

- Our parishes have not developed a Property Strategy, a strategy reflective and supportive of our mission in our local area will help us identify our needs into the future.