

Guidelines for our Parish Pastoral Council

ROLE

Our Pastoral Council's role is to participate in God's mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in the world around us.

Our Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility of leadership for the ongoing life and development of our parish community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

Our Parish Pastoral Council seeks to:

- Be open to the signs of the times and the prophetic voice, while carrying the hopes of our parish in a practical way.
- Communicate in a clear, open and transparent way with our communities.
- Listen and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners.
- Encourage and support the work of groups within our parish to put our vision into action.
- Provide opportunities for parishioners -to grow in their relationship with God and with each other.
- Support and encourage parishioners in their continuing efforts to be a Christian influence in the wider community.
- Work collaboratively with the parish to set realistic and achievable pastoral goals for our parish community within the framework of our vision and diocesan priorities.
- Contribute towards making parish decisions that reflect the values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.
- Work collaboratively with the Parish Leadership Team, the Finance and Property Committee, and our parish communities.

MEMBERSHIP

There will be up to eight members on the Parish Council. In addition, ex-officio members are the Parish Leadership Team, one of the Parish School Principals, and a member of the Finance and Property Committee.

Eight members will be nominated by parishioners and decided by a process of discernment.

The Council will have as broad a membership as possible, with a diversity of age, gender and ethnic origin. Each Pastoral Councillor is a representative of the whole parish community and not a representative of a specific parish group only.

There will be a session of formation for all Council members prior to the first meeting of the newly chosen Council and after each changeover of membership.

TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

The term of membership is two years. To facilitate continuity, it is anticipated that approximately half the Pastoral Council members will choose to continue for a second term.

Anyone who serves two terms consecutively will then stand down for at least one term.

NEW MEMBERS

All parishioners will be asked to recommend other parish members for possible membership of the Council. Each person recommended will be invited either to a combined Information Meeting or to an individual meeting with a Pastoral Councillor, to receive current information about Pastoral Councils. At the conclusion of this meeting, participants will be asked to indicate whether they wish to accept or decline possible membership.

Our Vision

We are a community of joyful disciples growing together and sharing Christ's message

Catholic Parish of Wellington South

If the number of acceptances of possible membership is more than required, the membership will be finalised by either negotiation or a prayerful selection process.

CASUAL VACANCIES

The Council may fill any casual vacancy by invitation, with regard given to the skills and characteristics required on the Pastoral Council.

Prior to joining the Council, the proposed candidates will receive a short briefing on responsibilities and expectations as a member. After completing the remainder of the current term of membership for this casual vacancy, the new member will be eligible for recommendation for a second term.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

In a spirit of prayerfulness each member of the Parish Pastoral Council will:

- Attend the regular meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council.
- Provide input to deliberations of the Council.
- Develop a spirit of enquiry and the ability to listen and understand the issues affecting the lives of parishioners.
- Provide prayerful support and encouragement for other members of the Parish Pastoral Council.
- Embrace opportunities for personal faith development and for gaining skills to assist with effective participation in the Council's operations.
- Represent the Parish Pastoral Council when required eg other Parish meetings, deanery or diocesan meetings.

SPECIFIC ROLES

The Pastoral Council will select the chairperson, deputy chairperson, and secretary.

MEETINGS

There will be a minimum of ten monthly meetings of the Pastoral Council each year.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees will be set up under the auspices of the Pastoral Council and will report regularly to the council. These committees may include members of the Pastoral Council. The Standing Committees will be Liturgy, Social Justice and Outreach, Communications and Hospitality.

TASK GROUPS

Task groups may be set up under the auspices of the Pastoral Council for specific purposes for a definite duration and will report regularly to the Pastoral Council. These groups may include members of the Pastoral Council.

CONSENSUS

The consensus approach will be used in the process of contributing towards the making of parish decisions, with each member offering input towards the final outcome.

REVIEW OF GUIDELINES

These Pastoral Council Guidelines will be reviewed every two years, or more frequently if the need arises.

January 2016

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