

**VISION AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (MISSION ACTION PLAN)
2019-2021**

The Anglican Parish of St Nicholas, Mordialloc

An inclusive and welcoming Anglican parish situated in the heart of our local community

Statement of Values and Mission

At St Nicholas' we strive to follow the example of Jesus in the way he lived, expressing and putting into practice the compassion and all-encompassing love God has for the world.

Our Strengths

- Ours is a welcoming, vibrant, generous, inclusive and friendly community. Visitors straight away feel they are welcome and this is the greatest of assets for ongoing community building and growth.
- We have a beautiful church space.
- We have God at our centre.
- Our worship services are reverent, well-organised and meaningful.
- Prayer is central to everything we do.
- Various ways to study and reflect on the Scriptures and other sacred texts are available to deepen faith.
- Diverse fellowship and hospitality opportunities are valued and enjoyed.
- We are a pastoral community, caring for and helping each other in Christian love, and extending that pastoral reach to a range of local aged care facilities.
- Reaching out to our local community and supporting communities in need is important to us.
- People in our community are encouraged to use their God-given talents and skills in leadership and other roles to the glory of God. As a result, we have a strong leadership team.

Our Challenges

- We want to explore a range of engaging and creative worship services that are sacred and uplifting, feeding the soul and the spirit in liturgy and in music.
- We recognize that the long-term future of the parish depends on developing a vibrant, engaged ministry to young children, youth and families.
- We also value all generations in our congregation and want to grow our numbers in all age groups by reaching out effectively into our local community, encouraging an inter-generational church community of fellowship and support.
- We need more small groups to support faith development and mutual support.
- We can, with God's help, connect with and support to a greater degree than we do now, the marginalized and those in need in our local community and further afield, nationally and internationally. It is important that all in our community understand the range of social justice issues impacting our world, locally and globally.

Our Plan

Enhancing worship, liturgy, prayer and spirituality

2019

- Form a liturgy and music sub-group to overview our current liturgies and music, with a view to consolidating what we do well and wish to retain, and looking for opportunities to refresh and revitalize our liturgies and music where that is needed, drawing on a range of approved Australian and international Anglican liturgical and musical resources.

2020

- Progressively introduce any agreed new liturgies and music
- Encourage greater parishioner involvement in worship services (children, youth and adults)
- Develop and implement training for all involved in liturgical roles and offer occasional singing workshops to foster development of the choir.

2021

- Review our progress in this area.

Growing our ministry to children, families and youth

2019

- Continue to actively support our Tito playgroup and Sunday School ministry for children and families.
- Introduce a new Messy Church service once per month.
- Plan for growth in our ministry to children and families through an appropriate allocation of funding in the 2019-2020 parish budget and through seeking appropriate funding from external funding and grant sources (e.g. Diocesan KidsPlus grants) with a view to employing a part-time children and families minister as soon as possible

2020

- Evaluate our progress with Messy Church, including creating more opportunities for youth in the parish to assist with Messy Church
- Explore the possibility of an occasional Messy Movies outreach during school holidays
- Form a sub-group to explore how we might establish and grow a ministry to youth with a view to starting up a youth group that meets regularly under the guidance of a volunteer youth minister. Liaise as appropriate with the newly-created Kingston Council Youth Hub.

2021

- Continue to support growth and development in all areas of children, youth and families ministry, focusing on extending the marketing of our offerings within the local community once they are well established.

Greater outreach to the local community

2019

- Continue to support our current community outreach through the Gallipoli Precinct events (ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day) and the St Columba Gallery events and exhibitions
- With the assistance of our volunteer special-events co-ordinator, extend our current hospitality offerings to include two events (one mid-year, one in December) that can be marketed directly to our local community (e.g. a Gilbert and Sullivan evening in June and a “Carols in the Church Grounds” event in December 2019).
- Make greater use of our front grounds which offers an excellent way of connecting with our local community (e.g. occasional sausage sizzles, Shrove Tuesday pancakes, occasional after-church morning fellowship).

2020

- Appoint a volunteer community education co-ordinator to extend our outreach offerings to include two or three appropriate community education sessions/community forums at the church throughout the year.

2021

- Review and evaluate, and consolidate/extend our offerings as appropriate. This review to include the St Columba Gallery and the Gallipoli Precinct events.

Developing more small groups to support faith development and mutual support

2019

- Identify a parishioner (or parishioners) to work with the Vicar to set up a new Women’s Fellowship group and a new Men’s Fellowship group.
- Extend our Bible study offerings to include a new day-time Bible Study led by the Vicar on a monthly basis.
- Continue our Lenten and Advent Studies and encourage greater engagement with them by our congregation.
- Trial the concept of “home groups” being available to all parishioners by forming one or two such groups in 2019 as a pilot under the guidance of an appropriate mentor experienced in home group ministry (e.g. Cursillo).

2020

- Evaluate the pilot home groups with a view to extending them to the whole parish community.

2021

- All parishioners who wish to be in a home group have a home group available to them.

Increasing our understanding of social justice issues and growing our support for those in need

2019

- With the assistance of our volunteer social justice coordinator in the parish, who has a brief of oversight for all our current social justice initiatives and leadership, ensure appropriate growth in these in the years to come and in line with our financial commitment (currently 2.5% of our annual budget) to social justice initiatives.

2020

- Organise a number of parish forums which focus on facets of social justice relevant to our parish (eg youth homelessness, families at risk, frustration with government red tape and Centrelink, etc.)
- Evaluate our work in this area.

2021

- Expand as appropriate.

Excellence in pastoral care

2019-2021

- Continue to provide excellent pastoral care across our community, encouraging those with passion and skills in this area to join the pastoral care team to grow our home and hospital visiting, prayer ministry and aged care ministry.
- Continue to evaluate and improve our work in these areas via bi-monthly meetings of the pastoral care leadership team, and empower this leadership team to develop strategies to ensure we are a community that enacts Christian love, encouragement, trust and mutual support.
- Grow our capacity to be a source of information and referral to other agencies of care and support within the community.

Enhancing our communication

2019-2021

- Focus on ensuring that our communications – electronic and non-electronic – are used effectively so that all in our community can engage with each other and we can effectively communicate all that we do with each other and with the wider community.

Keeping all in our community safe

2019-2021

- Ensure ongoing compliance in the parish with all Diocesan, State and Federal requirements to ensure ours is a safe community for all, meeting our Child Safe, Occupational Health and Safety and Professional Standards commitments.
- Continue to encourage understanding within the community of why compliance is important for the parish in helping keep everyone safe.