

## **ST. JOSEPHS PARISH, TRANMERE.**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL.**

2020 has been a year that most would like to forget along with the pandemic and its effect on our lives. The most notable effect was to our Church life with the cancellation of Masses and other religious celebrations, which affected our close family friendships, built up over the years.

Our most affected were those who relied on parishioners bringing Communion into their homes on a regular visit. These visits in many cases were often the only contact with the parish that continued when they were unable to attend Mass due to failing health.

Our Council meetings were curtailed in April with the closure of all Church activities, which included our Masses and our Easter celebrations. The closure, or LOCKDOWN extended until August when we were allowed limited numbers in the Church. Seeing the Church restricted to a small number was very disheartening, having grown with full churches. The Mass was available on line for those with access and helped to provide some comfort for people on Sundays, but with no access to Communion it was a very hollow feeling.

In August we re-opened our churches but with limited numbers. We have built up from those times to a point where we can now allow 150 parishioners to attend Mass on Sunday. As Chairman, I would like to express my gratitude to the loyalty of the Parishioners during this difficult time. Your patience in accepting the rules has been appreciated, and I welcome every one of you back into the family.

Parish Pastoral Council continued in a limited capacity, during this period and members remained inactive but never the less still available if called upon. Our social activities, such as morning teas, sausage sizzles, and Men's and Ladies dinners were not permitted. This adversely impacted on our fundraising capabilities affecting donations to St Vincent de Paul, Hutt Street and other groups.

In August we were able meet and attempt to put things back in place.

I am sorry that this may not be the report you wanted but as Chairman it is the way I have seen the year and its working, some contracts still remain to be completed but not for want of trying by the Council. We have enjoyed some successes with the development of the Memorial Garden, marketing of the plots is to begin after Easter. Currently the irrigation system is not operating, requiring some repairs and maintenance to the controllers and solenoids, this is a garden beds watering system, covering all garden beds around the total property.

Fr. Roy has been able to form a youth group in line with his earlier ambitions for the Parish. Other new ministries introduced in the Parish include Catechism for children after Mass on Sundays by Sr. Mary Jasmine, Youth ministry guided by Nancy Nugure, reviewed the Children's liturgy with new team, Novena to St. Joseph after Mass on Wednesdays, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays before Mass, special devotion to Divine Mercy in our Parish. Seven new families joined the Parish during the year. They are most welcome as we rebuild after COVID 19 and its devastating effect on our community

The maintenance of our Car park and the gardens has always been well supported by many parishioners, and I am grateful for their support.

In April we will hold our Annual General Meeting and elect some new members to the Council, and re-begin life in our Parish. This meeting will be held on **Thursday April 29 in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm**, new members will be welcome.

After some twenty or more years on the Council I believe it is time to call a break and step back to concentrate my time with the Knights of The Southern Cross in our local branch, try to rebuild our strength for the work locally with a growth in membership, hopefully in a younger age group within the Parish. The Knights will celebrate their Centenary in May 2022 and I am heavily involved in this preparation, taking a considerable amount of time and meetings. It only leaves me to express my sincere thanks to Fr. Roy and the Council members for their support throughout the year and to wish you all well.

Michael Boyle