



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TRANMERE

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) 2019-2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our Parish aims to be a community that lives and expresses the joy of the gospel of Jesus, serving others, especially in the places where people are suffering, disempowered by circumstance and furthest from life to the full. This will be done by supporting the Eight Gospel Characteristics of Renewal: 1. The parish is a community in which each member is called to a personal relationship with Jesus. 2. Eucharistic liturgies are prayerful and fully participative. 3. The Word of God is proclaimed in good preaching and in faithful lives. 4. There is a warm sense of community outreach and welcome. 5. The parish community is visibly engaged with those who experience poverty and need, and with those at the margins of society and church. 6. The parish witnesses to God's love for all the creatures of Earth. 7. The parish is led by a priest with a pastoral team. 8. Eucharistic communities that are viable will be enabled to continue.

Having understood these eight Gospel characteristics, we have a deep sense of commitment for our pastoral apostolate. Unfortunately, we were stricken by the COVID 19 pandemic, but we have realized opportunities and new ways to continue ministries and outreach in this time of social distancing and isolation. We maintained our social distance and have begun assessing how we can continue the mission of our parish in a variety of ways. Virtually, with online Masses, with an increased number of Holy Masses with small attendance numbers, a special weekly bulletin with Sunday reflections, Phone trees for communications etc... These were some means we found to keep in touch with our parishioners, to keep up the connection with St. Joseph's parishioners. This annual report is filled with lots of information and good news for our parish community.

As my role of Parish Priest in 2019, I was delighted to be able to welcome nearly all of our Parishioners. As Easter approached, we launched Project Compassion, another important way of living the gospel messages of charity and loving one another. At the same time, we were confronted with a great threat to the Christian

attitude to life – the introduction of a bill in Parliament to remove all laws around the ending of the life of pre-born babies. Our preparations for Holy Week were shockingly interrupted by the Christchurch mosque massacre and as a community we showed our solidarity through an interfaith memorial in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Then in 2020 we were stricken by the COVID-19 pandemic and experienced restrictions and strict lock downs.

In spite of these great difficulties, we managed to do something within the restrictions. Our long-cherished desire of a Youth group in the parish, has been achieved. We are blessed with the presence of a Religious Sister in our parish, Sr. Mary Jasmin, who belongs to the congregation of the Passionist. 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, a review of the Children's liturgy with a new team. There is also the Novena to St. Joseph after Mass on Wednesdays, the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays before Mass, and the special devotion to Divine Mercy in our Parish. We also had Lantern retreats for the parishioners and Re-build my church, the prayer designed by the Archdiocese on Wednesdays during the Lent we faithfully carried out. We participated the protest rally held in front of the parliament against the abortion bill. We have re-organised and repaired our drip irrigation system. We also repainted our car park lines and markings. More good news to the parish, are the seven new families who have joined the Parish during the year. We are happy to see many migrant families with their children. This year 2021, we have 71 candidates for confirmation and first holy communion.

With a deep sense of gratitude and acknowledgement I thank, Karen Taylor, Hiacinta Msomi, Divya Paul, Michel Boyle and all the members of the PPC, and Paul Rookie and all the members of the Finance committee, for your selfless service and support. I wish and pray God's abundant blessing to you all.

Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM
29/04/2021