

# St Luke's Catholic Faith Community Draft Plan 2020 – 2023



## Overview

How quickly our first two years have gone!

Back in January, 2018, a small group of people met around a dining room table to plan how we would launch our new St Luke's Catholic community in Marsden Park.

After our initial Mass, we started with a community of about 150 people each Sunday. Just before the COVID-19 shutdown, we were seeing more than 400 people each Sunday.

The growth has been amazing as has been the engagement of people in active roles. So, before looking to the future, some thanks are in order for those who have helped us to where we are today.

Our initial and current Advisory Group members have given sound guidance and great ideas, as well as helping make things happen every week.

Many people have stepped up to take on active ministry roles – from welcomers, to those who do our collections and counting, the hospitality team, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Communion, acolytes, readers, musicians, youth ministry leaders, children's liturgy teachers, sacramental program leaders, RCIA leadership, Alpha support group and Couples for Christ in a many areas of support.

A big thank you to the Saturday afternoon team who put out seats for Mass and those who stack them away afterwards.

There are dozens of people who help the St Lukes community each week and all of their efforts are valued and vital.

As we move into the future, our vision will be vital.

### **Vision Statement:**

"WE ARE CONTINUALLY ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO ST LUKE'S AND EVERYONE WHO ENGAGES AS A MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY IS TRANSFORMED IN EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIFE BY HAVING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS."

Our future draft plan has been grouped around four key headings.

**WE AIM TO SERVE JESUS CHRIST THROUGH:**



# 1. Our Community Faith and Life

St Luke's has had a strong focus on hospitality, building a welcoming environment and on our spiritual growth. We cannot take this for granted and need people to ensure this remains a hallmark of St Luke's.

We will keep a strong focus on hospitality, a friendly welcome, a sense of community during and after Mass.

A small percentage of our community members have engaged in faith development activities such as Alpha and retreats. But our desire is for everyone to grow in their love of God and his will for our lives and therefore to see that their engagement in our faith community isn't limited to attending Mass each week.

We also need to continue to reach out and invite other people to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and consider devoting their lives to being His disciples.

## **What do we need in this area?**

- Participants for Alpha. Our aim is that every adult in our community will undertake it at least once.
- Leaders for Alpha: small group hosts and co-hosts, musicians, food hospitality, child minding, prayer ministry.
- We want to secure one or several people to take leadership of our welcoming ministry. This would involve getting a team of friendly people to ensure that our welcome table has one or several smiling faces each Sunday, that people are greeted when they arrive, and that new community members are identified and connected with other members of our community.
- Funding for a part-time Director of Evangelisation who will coordinate efforts to attract people into our community through a variety of means including Alpha and also work to assist people into the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

## **2. Our Place to gather and Worship**

As part of our wonderful partnership with St Luke's Catholic College, we have been lucky to be able to utilise the Hub at the College in our early years.

However, the school is rapidly expanding, as is our faith community. This has made the use of the Hub increasingly problematic. In the medium term, our own building is desirable as a place to gather for Mass and other sacraments, groups, faith development programs, devotions and other prayerful gatherings.

We are talking about a place to call home – for our worship and community life – to support our future growth and identity.

### **What do we need in this area?**

- We know our diocese can no longer afford to provide interest-free loans for church buildings. So, any place we call our own will need to be funded by our own community. This will require a financial commitment by every family in our community.

- To get things rolling, we ask for expressions of interest from people who have experience in the areas of finance, planning, construction and fundraising to review options and do some initial feasibility planning.

### **3. Our Youth Support and Our Outreach**

We are predominantly a young community of families with school-aged children. We have an excellent partnership with St Luke's Catholic College. We desire to continue to build and deepen our support of families, youth and young adults.

We have established Children's Liturgy and a Youth Group (Saints in Training) to support children and youth.

Supported by Mrs Julie Atkins of St Luke's Catholic College, we have an active and growing Sacramental preparation program.

The continued growth of these programs/groups requires adults with an openness to growing and developing the faith of children and youth - people who are willing to engage in ongoing development and to have Working With Children Checks in place before they start.

Beyond our faith community, we have engaged in outreach to the broader community through support of Kairos Prison Ministry, Caritas and the St Vincent de Paul Society.

#### **What do we need in this area?**

- Adults willing to be involved in Children's Liturgy on a rostered basis for Sundays.
- Youth ministry leaders.
- Funding for a part-time youth minister.
- People willing to support our sacramental program by sharing the faith with children and their parents.
- Families willing to engage in activities that allow them to grow in faith together.

## 4. Our Leadership and Community Voice

Our community started with an Advisory Group to help guide our Pastoral Director, Deacon Tony, and his wife, Annette. This was a vital group in terms of planning, consultation and growing of the new faith community.

We are looking to now create a **St Luke's Pastoral Council** which will provide a voice for the community and guidance on refining our Vision and Plan to serve the community now and into the future. This group will generally meet once every two months but may have more frequent meetings in its initial stages of formation.

We also have established **Ministry Leaders** in areas such as music, youth, liturgy, Sacramental program, RCIA, hospitality, children's ministry. We need to add people with responsibility for evangelisation/Alpha, faith development, welcoming ministry and charitable outreach.

The Pastoral Council and Ministry Leaders will be complemented by a **Leadership Team** which will meet more regularly – probably every fortnight. It will aim to ensure we are keeping on track with our vision and plan, as well as identifying gaps and areas of risk and taking required actions to address them. Several community members have recently joined our Pastoral Director and his wife on an initial Leadership Team. They are Tessie James, one of the initial Advisory Group members, and Kelly Bauer, an Assistant Principal at St Luke's. This team has been supported by the Diocesan Pastoral Planning team. (We will look to identify skills missing in this team and invite one or two more people to join).

### **What do we need in this area?**

- People to prayerfully consider if they can play a role on our Pastoral Council and in other ministry areas where leaders and others are required.
- We will have a Dreaming and Discovery session soon and we will ask anyone who is willing to engage and share ideas, their gifts and talents in being a representative voice of our community in the next three years to come along with an open mind and heart.

## Next Steps

All of the above needs to be more fully discussed and refined to enable a more concrete plan to be written for our next three years.

This is your community – Our Community of St Luke’s - in service of Jesus Christ. Your ideas and engagement matters on how you want to grow as a community, worship together, serve God’s mission and shape our leadership

The first stage will be a St Luke’s **‘Discover and Dream’** session in June.

Also in June, we will look to establish the initial Pastoral Council and sub-groups to look at specific projects/tasks.

For now, we are requesting your initial feedback via a survey so you can let us know if you agree with the direction we are proposing to head in, or your comments/questions.

Please go to this Google survey and provide your input:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1COHnN8VRcN3XKM0zLLBbf5gfbmbxjVnboWuPy-rC9mM/edit>

(You may need to paste the address into your internet browser).