

# Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

2 Alma St, Bellerive  
PO Box 987, Rosny Park, 7018  
Phone: 6245 0501  
Fr Richard Ross PP

Email: bellerive@aohtas.org.au  
Website: www.cdtas.org.au/bellerive  
Fb/Instagram: @belleriveparish  
Fr Fidelis Udousoro

Dear Parish Family,

St Francis of Assisi referred to elements of creation as his brother or sister. "Anything that is doing what it is created to do is my brother, my sister", explained a Franciscan monk to me on one occasion. The geranium that blooms cannot cure sickness or bring about world peace, yet it shares with the world its colour and beauty, it fulfills its purpose by flowering and so contributes to a sense of harmony in the world. We can notice it, appreciate it and be graced by it, or we can be blind to it and dismiss it as irrelevant.

It is the same for each of us. There is nothing more attractive than a person who is fully alive, who is content in their own skin, comfortable with their flaws and at home with their strengths. In accepting our wonderful diversity and individual uniqueness, we create an experience of harmony with all creation, without judgment or jealousy. Conversely, when we abuse or manipulate another person for our own selfish ends, or when we exploit creation out of greed, we damage the harmony in the world, inflicting wounds and creating division.

Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato Si" asserts that St Francis "invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness." This is far from naïve romanticism, "for it effects the choices which determine our behaviour." (LS 11-12)

The feast of St Francis which we celebrated on Friday serves to heighten our awareness of this mindset of profound reverence for all of creation.

Fr Richard

## Parish Pastoral Council Report of the meeting of 29 September 2019

Continuing our Parish's journey in becoming a genuinely Safe Community was the main area of discussion. Feedback from the two repeated parish information sessions (11 September & 18 September) formed the basis of discernment, discussion and decision-making. Mindful of what is practical and manageable, initial actions were identified for the next 6 months and feedback from the parish information sessions will continue to guide further actions.

Three main themes to aid planning emerged from the feedback:

**COMMUNICATION** – provide clear, simple, decluttered information in multiple ways to raise awareness and knowledge in our parish community about policy, practices, prevention, reporting and support of any abuse of children and vulnerable adults.

*Planned Initial Actions:*

- Use parish website and Facebook to raise awareness
- Designate a Safe Community Notice Board at each church to provide information
- Develop a series of leaflets on key information, processes and support help-lines
- Develop a simplified overview of the Safe Community Parish guidelines

**EDUCATION** – provide ongoing information on aspects of further developing 'a safe parish community'.

*Planned Initial Actions:*

- Regular, ongoing focus at Mass, from the pulpit, in newsletters and on notice boards
- Spaced parish forums on eg Elder Abuse; Royal Commissions on 'abuse' and implications for our community

**POLICY** – utilize the work from other parishes and dioceses to develop clear and simple Safe Community policies and protocols.

*Planned Initial Actions:*

- Develop a Safe Community Parish Policy
- Develop a Code of Conduct for Parish Volunteers
- Continue monitoring Police Checks and Working with Vulnerable People Cards for all parish workers, volunteers and contractors
- Reviewing the physical environment, checking it is 'safe' for both children and vulnerable adults, and also for our priests and parish volunteers. In the near future some solid doors will be replaced by glass doors ensuring visibility, eg. in sacristies.

The Parish Pastoral Council, with Fr Richard and Fr Fidelis, is most grateful to the 30 parishioners for the considered and insightful feedback they provided at the September information sessions, and for their ongoing commitment to make our parish and even safer community for all.

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues	10:45am	Queen Victoria Home
	12.00pm	Church of the Incarnation
Weds	12:00pm	Corpus Christi
Thurs	10.00am	John Paul II
Fri	9.30am	Corpus Christi

Next week's Readings  
2 Kings 5:14-17;  
2 Timothy 2:8-13;  
Luke 17:11-19