



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care embraces all aspects of parish life and responds to the many needs of the parishioners. We all care about each other and demonstrate this in various ways.

Pastoral Care at St Declan's aims:

To provide spiritual nourishment, social interaction and support to parishioners who are bereaved, aged, infirmed, sick, disabled and are unable to take part in parish Eucharistic celebrations by:

- involving parishioners to minister to others and share their faith;
- creating a community of care;
- developing a strong parish network.

One aspect involves bringing Holy Communion to, and sharing prayer (and social interaction) with:

- the sick and housebound parishioners;
- the local nursing home residents.

The visits are undertaken weekly by various Eucharistic ministers. They also provide a bond between the church and her people, offering news and information from the parish to those who are unable to partake in the Sunday celebrations.

For parishioners in hospital, contact is made and visits are organised in hospital and/or upon return home.

Another aspect involves bereavement support, including:

- offering support during time of dying and death of a parishioner, nursing home resident or a family member through comfort, prayer and funeral attendance;
- offering practical support before, during or after a funeral.

Anointing of the Sick:

The residing parish priests offer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to housebound parishioners and parishioners in care – nursing home and hospital. This is upon request by the family or parishioner and is ongoing.

An important aspect of Pastoral Care involves parish community celebrations. These include:

- Anointing masses held twice a year in the parish church outside the Sunday worship. *To experience, as community, the prayerful and healing power of our faith through the sacrament of 'Anointing of the Sick'.*
- Regular masses held at each of the five nursing homes in this parish. *To celebrate as an extended community the healing and nourishing sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist.*



- Annual Remembrance Mass. *To remember as community the life of our loved ones who have died. A gentle and prayerful celebration of life for family members, parishioners and friends.*

DECLANCRAFT

A social initiative started in 2012; DECLANCRAFT is for parishioners who are:

- in their 40s plus; seeking some type of intellectual, creative and fun activity; searching for a social outlet or network; wanting to be part of a parish and community activity.

It aims to:

- offer an opportunity to find a social network within the parish community; offer support and community/parish involvement in a friendly, social atmosphere whilst encouraging creative activity; provide the opportunity for developing a long-term social network amongst participants.

DECLANCRAFT is a one to four-session INTRODUCTORY craft activity or workshop facilitated by a person skilled in that particular area.

Each session includes a social cuppa.

Sessions are held in St Declan's Parish Meeting Room or Fernlands Hall. Activities may include: cooking, painting, sketching, jewellery making, handmade cards, dancing, yoga, card games, meditation, massage.

Support is also given to the wonderful parishioners who undertake the various care ministries throughout the parish. This includes:

- spiritual and educational formation in the way of reflection days and specific courses;
- celebrating, formally, the various ministries during Sunday liturgies;
- providing ongoing correspondence within the pastoral circle of the parish for continued awareness;
- offering prayer support for the needs of all parishioners.

To become involved doesn't take much;

being involved gives you more than you have ever imagined!

St Declan's parish has over 70 ministers involved in visitation ministry and bereavement support. We visit, support and pray with over 250 parishioners. This is a growing ministry as people are living longer and staying at home longer; there is more care support at home and in care facilities. We always welcome new people to be involved in such a life-giving ministry. This is one of those ministries that we can do as Jesus had done while on earth: *Love one another as I have loved you.*

Further information and support is available upon request.

Paulineke Nolan – Pastoral Care Coordinator
Phone: 9580 1310 (office); 0419 426 123 (mobile)

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