

**One Community,
Many people united in Faith.**

To the community of faith on the North-side of Rockhampton, your Pastoral Council members gathered with Leaders of our School Community on Thursday evening. They shared your input from our recent Parish Assembly, conversations they have had with you and of the direction of our faith communities into the future. I thank them for their sincerity, commitment and in the respectful way that they shared their concerns.

In any change there is always pain and loss, but there are also opportunities for new beginnings. It will be important to recognise the sacredness of each of the stories of those who have worshiped in each of our churches. These stories will also enrich and ground our new beginnings to bring to fruition the new possibilities which will come into the future.

Fr Frank Gilbert reminded us throughout, that without prayer this will not work, "this" being our community coming together as one, not for our survival, but for our renewal and the building up of our whole faith community. Yes we are three churches but we are one faith community, each with different gifts and different ways of sharing the faith in our wider community. This is where I believe we can be even better and stronger in our outreach and building up of our communities.

We can only build our communities united together and with a willingness to do it together, not with just lip service but with the movement of our feet towards each other. This came out strongly in our conversations and I believe it is the only way that we can continue as life giving faithful people. The past is over and in the past, we are now in the present moment which, if we are to be vibrant and faithful to the Gospel, means that we can only do it together. If we want to go it alone, in the same way as the past, then churches will close and we will be like other communities who die a slow death.

I do not want to close anymore churches; this will only happen if we remain closed to each other and our respective churches communities. I see if we come and share with each other our faith, the gifts that I see in this place, the new opportunities which may come if we reach out to each other and yes for some our need for healing, I see a very positive future. One where our school children are part of our church, our parishioners share with each other the faith, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is made even more deeply a part of all our lives.

As part of this process I will take on the advice of Fr Frank, that we have a week of prayer for our communities: though we are many, diverse in faith, we are united as one Body of Christ.

After the Assembly, listening too many of you, and with the input from the Pastoral Council and School Leadership, I have discerned the following Mass roster which will be implemented after Easter on the 17th of April 2017. Together may we build each other up and share the journey.

WEEKDAY MASS ROSTER

TUESDAY	9.00am	HOLY FAMILY CHURCH	(Parishioners & St Anthony's School)
WEDNESDAY	12noon	ST MARY'S CHURCH	(Parishioners & St Mary's School)
THURSDAY	8.00am	EMMAUS COLLEGE CHAPEL	(Staff, students, parishioners)
FRIDAY	9.00am	PARK AVENUE CHURCH	(Parishioners & St Joseph's School)

WEEKEND MASS ROSTER

SATURDAY NIGHT (VIGIL)	6.00pm	PARK AVENUE CHURCH *
	6.00pm	HOLY FAMILY CHURCH *
SUNDAY MORNINGS	7.00am	ST MARY'S CHURCH
	9.00am	HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

* When a priest is unavailable e.g. holidays, there will only be one vigil on the north-side and it will alternate between the two churches. At these times notice will be given well in advance for all communities.