

## Parish Advisory Council Report 2019

The Parish Advisory Council was formed in November 2018 as a group to share in the leadership of the parish through establishing priorities and directions. It was formed following significant discernment and a parish gathering earlier that year facilitated by Greg Sunter.

High on the agenda in this first year of operating was ensuring the continued embodiment of the Carmelite charism and our parish mission statement in action. We have provided opportunities for, and sought input from parishioners so that our focus remained on the enrichment of the parish into the future.

- A Terms of Reference for the group was developed and communicated to members of the parish.
- We provided an opportunity to engage in a Listening and Dialogue Encounter as part of the preparations for the Plenary Council in 2020, following which we made a submission on behalf of the parish to inform the themes to be addressed at the Plenary Council. Three parishioners then attended the Brisbane Assembly as part of the discernment phase of the Plenary journey and prepared a summation of this event for parishioners.
- We established the concept of Carmel Conversations, a series of occasional conversations, opportunities to meet in a relaxed atmosphere and talk about issues pertinent to us as a parish. Our first Carmel Conversation, on the topic of inclusion, was held in early May and was facilitated by Carmel Dunne. A Ministry Sunday conversation was led by David Hutton on the theme of *Co-responsibility for Mission*. This event was very well attended and provided both challenge and insight. A suggestion from a parish member asking that morning conversations/meetings commence at 9.30am was noted for the future. Carmel Conversations will continue in 2020.
- We planned a “whole of community” celebration of our Feast Day, with one Mass followed by hospitality. Hospitality has been identified as an important aspect of parish life and plans are in place for hospitality to be offered after Mass on a regular basis in 2020. The Carmel Care group will take the lead on this.
- A brochure stating and celebrating who we are as a Carmelite community in Coorparoo was developed and distributed. It included Our Mission statement and how it is enacted, information on the Carmelite charism, the story of Simon Stock and the statue in the Church and a list of ministries.
- We spent time in formation as a group, engaged in reading, prayer and discussion and stayed attuned to the Australian church’s preparations and directions which will emanate from the Plenary Council in 2020. At the parish level in 2020 we will embark on the development of a strategic plan in consultation with the community.

Jane Connolly  
Chair, Mt Carmel Parish Advisory Council