

Role of Church Communities

“The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.” **Pope Francis - Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)**

Role of Parishioners in Rural Church Communities

- Be a Community that is Gospel centered.
- Regularly gathers to reflect on the word of God and celebrate the sacraments.
- Is a Community that pastorally cares for each other and the wider community.
 - Communion to the sick and elderly.
 - Helping out in times of crisis.
 - Visiting in times of special need.
- Provide a welcoming environment to visitors and new parishioners.
 - Be a welcoming smile at the door on Sunday.
 - Wear a name badge so others know you. (New people)
- Witness to Christian values in the community.
- Through involvement with local service, sporting and community groups.
- Share your faith with others.
 - Participate in an ongoing Gospel sharing group.
 - Share in a Lenten group.
 - Ecumenical initiatives.
- Join in the various ministries of the Church.
 - Leader of Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion.
 - Ministers of the Word.
 - Eucharistic Ministers.
 - Ministers of Hospitality.
- The community regularly discerns its leadership team.

Role of Parishioners in Rural Church Communities (Cont)

- Prepare and lead appropriate liturgical celebrations.
 - Lay Led Assemblies.
 - Funeral preparation.
 - Baptism preparation.
 - Sacramental preparation.
 - Prepare seasonal liturgical celebrations.
- Ongoing formation for the above.

Role of Leadership Teams in Rural Communities

- 3 Members that are chosen by the community through a process of discernment.
 - 3 Year term. (1 change over per year)
 - Rotation of leadership.
 - Meets Monthly
- Facilitates communication and organisation within the local church community.
- Facilitates communication with the wider regional communities.
- Ensure good pastoral care in the local church community.
- Facilitate ongoing faith formation. Eg. small groups,
- Strengthening the faith community.
- Encouraging participation in the faith community.
- Welcoming new members into the faith community.
- Encourage dialogue and engagement with our schools.

Role of Priest in Rural Church Communities

- To lead and support the community to achieve the above objectives.
 - Meet regularly with each rural community leadership team.
 - Meet regularly with those preparing Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion.
 - Help animate Gospel Reflection Groups
 - Formation and support of the leadership team.

- Celebrate the sacraments of Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation and Anointing

- Funerals (With the support of parishioners)
 - Meet with the family before the funeral.
 - Facilitate the funeral.
 - Follow up with the family after the funeral.

- Catholic Primary Schools
 - Visit regularly to support staff in their work.
 - Be present to students and parents.
 - Participate in the sacramental program.
 - Participate in school Masses and ceremonies.