

A Welcoming Community

We would like all of God's children to feel welcome in our Parish Community. A deep feeling of belonging will not only enrich their lives, but also their presence will enrich the life of our parish. A vibrant parish community in which we all participate will offer all of us a chance to share in God's love and build on our understanding of our faith.

- **I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25: 35**

Remembering that Christ is present in our midst in the:

- WORD, ALTAR, CELEBRANT, BLESSED SACRAMENT and the PEOPLE ASSEMBLED

Who are we welcoming?

- Newcomers to our town.
- Visitors to our Parish.
- County visitors.
- Visitors from other local churches.
- Baptism visitors
- Older parishioners
- Children
- The downtrodden.
- Those around you.
- Uninitiated.
- The lonely.
- Sacramental families.
- Christmas families.

A Ministry of Grace - Welcoming

EVERYONE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MINISTRY OF WELCOME

- Asking people their names is important.
- Name badges for all welcomers.
- Enthusiasm for people to be present.
- Invite people to join in –'walk with them'
- Need to be made, not just welcome, but part of the group.
- Warm family reunion feel.
- Invite people to stay for a cuppa.
- Happy to be together, "it's good to be here"
- Mutual acceptance.
- "... to authenticate the Sunday assembly as the great sacrament of unity in Christ"
- Friendliness of welcomers is an essential ingredient.
- Explicit welcoming.
- Welcomers to realise they are the first point of contact when people arrive.
- We need to welcome people as we would Jesus.
- Arrive early (15-20 minutes) and leave late.
- Use the bulletin as a tool to talk to people.
- Greet children.
- Help people to get involved in our parish.
- Be at your best.
- Welcomers at all entrances.

WELCOMING AND HOSPITALITY IS MORE THAN JUST A 'CUPPA' AFTER MASS!

What Can I Do For My Parish?

Hospitality Trolley

Your main duty is to ensure that the tea and coffee trolley is ready to go before Mass, help out anyone who needs assistance with their drinks, tidy up and pack everything away. The Parish office makes sure the tea trolley is in place and fully stocked. We use all disposable utensils so that there is minimal cleaning up to do. Please come out from behind the trolley when you can and have a chat to those gathering. We would like to offer a cuppa to parishioners every week on both Saturday evening and Sunday.

Yes, I can help with this up to _____ times per year.

Welcomers at Mass

As welcomers, your job is to meet and greet people. Your avenue in may be to give them a copy of the bulletin. We need to have two or three people undertaking the role of welcomer as you can't stop and have a conversation with people if you are frantically handing out bulletins. Your role also includes looking out for those that are new to the parish and inviting them to stay for a cuppa. You might then make them feel welcome during the cuppa and introduce them to other parishioners. Introducing them to others frees you up to welcome more people.

Yes, I can help with this up to _____ times per year.

Information Desk

We would like to have an information desk set-up in the foyer which would be manned by friendly parishioners. This would be the avenue for parishioners to find out about how can get involved in the parish. Again we would like them to have a positive experience and feel welcome in our Parish.

Yes, I can help with this up to _____ times per year.

School Family Dinners

Our parish invites each year level at St Mary's primary school to a Friday night dinner in the Dunworth Centre. Food is provided by a caterer and served by volunteers. We need assistance in two ways for these dinners.

1. Assist with the serving.

Yes, I can help with this up to _____ times per year.

2. Come along and enjoy a meal and make the school families feel welcome. (Sounds pretty easy).

The dinners go from 6:30pm until 8:30pm only.

Yes, I can help with this up to _____ times per year.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

My preferred Mass time is: Sat / Sun

I don't mind my having my phone number listed on the roster. Yes / No