



PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This Sunday sees the convening of our Parish Annual General Meeting. It is always a highlight of any parish calendar. I am conscious I have only been in the parish for a few weeks but I will outline in summary a few thoughts on significant issues as I see them impacting on the Church and our community.

Firstly, I congratulate all involved in the refurbishment of St Thomas Aquinas Church recently re-opened.

Secondly, the Church in Australia continues to be challenged by the need to respond to the scrutiny of our procedures and actions with regard to the safety of minors and vulnerable persons. This will require of us a radical change of heart and the will need to learn again the lesson of humility.

The number of active clergy in our parish has been reduced from three to two priests. Neither has there been a pastoral associate for some time. A new parish business manager also has to be found. These will be important decisions and we need to pray that good personnel will come forward.

I am conscious that many among our regular congregations come from very different experiences of church and faith. This is a source of pride and encouragement for us all. Added to this is the vibrant enthusiasm of a group of young adults (Young Adult Ministry – YAM) whose presence and involvement also gives us great hope for the future.

Finally, may I express also my sincere thanks to the cohort of volunteers from both within and beyond the parish without whom our community outreach and ministries cannot exist.

Fr Brian Buckley OSA

Parish Priest