

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP IN ST NICKS

After 52 years of serving parishes, our priest Richard will step back from full-time parish ministry in September 2024, so that St Nicks can develop as a 'Lay-led parish' served by a non-resident priest (Richard for 3-4 years). The future of the whole Catholic Church depends on the development of the ministries and gifts of committed lay Catholics, taking more responsibility for the pastoral care, the liturgy and the mission of our parishes. Here at St Nicks we have been growing towards this 'New Way of Being Church' (Pope Francis) for some years. The time has come to take the next big step.

What is the Strategy?

[1] Careful and prayerful discernment (involving the whole parish community) to select a group of 5-6 'Community Elders' who together with the non-resident priest will share oversight of all aspects of the parish's life, ministries and mission of service in the Inner City. They will work closely with our elected Parish Pastoral Council.

[2] The group of Community Elders need to express the rich diversity of our community - varying in age, ethnicity and gifts. Their ministry will be to serve for a few years the growth and development of our parish. It is not a role of status or prestige but humble service, encouraging all members of the parish community to offer their time, gifts and skills (the Holy Spirit gives gifts and ministries to all through Baptism and Confirmation - the teaching of the Second Vatican Council).

[3] They will oversee and enable -

a] *The Sacramental and Spiritual Life* together with the non-resident part-time priest (initially Richard), nurturing the prayer and spirituality of our parish

b] *The Catechesis* of our children and adults, serving formation in our faith

c] *Keeping the parish's focus on Mission*, serving the impoverished and marginalised of our Inner City and beyond and able to respond to new needs and challenges that emerge

d] *The Pastoral Care* of the parish community building a welcoming caring, healing community where all are valued and we all serve one another, especially the distressed

e] *Good Communication* serving our Communion with each other, and as a parish with Diocesan authorities and services, ecumenical and inter-faith partners, the wider city

f] *Care for the Parish Plant*, so that our buildings will continue to serve the needs of the wider community as well as ourselves as a worshipping and serving congregation

g] *Financial Matters*, working with the Parish Finance Committee and the Legacy Management Group in the service of our parish's life and mission

Who will serve as Community Elders?

All of us are invited to be involved in prayerful conversation leading to discerning among us who may have: wisdom and experience; a commitment to our parish's vision and mission; a love for the Eucharist that gathers us together as a community of Prayer and Mission; a desire to serve rather than have power; a capacity to work as a team together; a sense of calling to a ministry of servant leadership; the capacity to offer anything between 8 and 20 hours a month to serve the parish.