

**ST THERESE'S ESSENDON  
PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM CHARTER  
SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Mission Statement**

At St Therese's Essendon we aspire to be a hospitable and compassionate community with a contemplative heart. Enlivened by the spirit, we treasure our traditions, we hope and trust in God's dream for us, and we carry God's love in service to all. We strive to witness the Good News in our local community by fostering the spiritual growth of our members through prayer & worship, service & outreach and education & faith formation.

The Parish Leadership Team aims to nurture, enable and facilitate this mission by:

- Fostering further growth and development of the faith and spirituality of our parishioners;
- Developing a greater lay involvement in parish leadership roles;
- Building a greater sense of parish community;
- Engaging and retaining our youth and young adults; and,
- Embracing the example of St Therese and building our support for those in need.

**Role of the Leadership Team**

The parish is a Eucharistic community led by its priest. Parishioners are called to work in close union with the priest bringing to the Church community their various talents.

The role of Parish Leadership Team is to respond to the call "to collaborate in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by their own beliefs and parish community."

The Leadership Team is comprised of priest and parishioners selected for their abilities to contribute to the life of the community, works together to give practical expression within the parish to the Church's mission of salvation in the world.

## **Responsibilities of the Leadership Team**

Responsibilities of the Leadership Team include:

1. Collaborating with the parish priest in providing direction and oversight for all pastoral aspects of parish life;
2. Establishing parish pastoral priorities with goals and objectives;
3. Engaging parishioners in the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish; and,
4. Ensuring the various ministries of the parish and their leaders are well supported.

## **Membership**

The Leadership Team will normally consist of the following members:

- The Parish Priest;
- The Parish School Principal (or nominated representative);
- The pastoral Associate (where one is appointed); and,
- Members of the parish community invited by the Parish Priest due to their faithful commitment and capacity to contribute to the needs and life of the parish.

## **Term of Office**

Members hold office for two years. Members who serve two consecutive terms of office will not usually be eligible for a third consecutive term. Members will normally arrange their retirement to ensure no more than half of the members retire within the same year.

If a member is absent for four consecutive meetings of the Leadership Team, the Parish Priest will contact that member to discuss whether their membership should continue.

## **Election of Members**

The Parish Leadership Team recognises that in a number of parishes membership is achieved by way of parish elections. At some time in the future, when the Parish Leadership Team has established sound and effective processes and procedures, this may be considered. Initially, discernment of suitability for membership will remain the responsibility of the parish priest.

## Conduct of Meetings

The Executive of the Leadership Team shall consist of:

- Parish Priest
- Chairperson
- Deputy Chairperson

A quorum at meetings shall be at least half the membership of the Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team shall normally meet once every month from February to December, or other agreed frequency. Additional meetings may be called as required.

Minutes will be kept of all meetings of the Parish Leadership Team by one of the team present at the PLT meeting.

The Leadership Team will accept written submissions for consideration from parishioners at any time.

Date Adopted .....

Signed ..... (Parish Priest)