



Blackfriars Parish

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn



Blackfriars Parish
Our Lady of the Rosary Church
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Blackfriars Parish
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary
Antill St, Watson

1 February 2023 Feast of St Brigid

To: The Most Reverend Christopher Prowse, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
From: The Renewal Group of Blackfriars Parish, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary
CC: Fr Richard Thompson, Vicar General

Dear Archbishop Christopher,

Greetings, in the joy of welcoming the Christ Child among us!

We hope you have passed a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year's celebration.

Following the announcement of the departure of the Dominicans from Blackfriars Parish and also a December 2022 meeting of sharing with Fr Dominic, for which we were very grateful, we are writing to ask to meet with you to talk about the future of Blackfriars Parish.

Four years ago with the blessing and support of Fr Kieran and, subsequently, Fr Mannes, our Parish established a renewal group to explore how to renew the life of our parish community. This was the outcome of an intuition received in the lead up to the Plenary Council.

Beginning with a Parish reading group studying Fr James Mallon's Divine Renovation, we have spent the last few years running Alpha Courses in person and online, and facilitating small groups and missions as the Holy Spirit leads us.

We have now run five Alpha Courses, including two run ecumenically with Holy Cross Anglican Parish (one adult and one youth), and one for mothers and babies. We have also been involved in supporting and running *Laudato Si'* dialogues, which last year was on behalf of the Archdiocesan Caring for Creation movement, as well as ecumenical youth group initiatives, the North Canberra Nativity Festival, and a Women's Faith Circle. We also strongly supported the 2021 'Walk in the Spirit' Lenten Renewal Program and helped develop the 2021 'Walking Together' Advent program. In the context of parish renewal, one of the themes discussed in our renewal group meetings has been the journey of the Church towards greater diversity and inclusion, with particular reference to the disability, Indigenous, women, and culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

On a personal level each of us is involved in the mission and ministry of the Parish (and beyond), be it with liturgy, administration, finance, hospitality, catechesis, supporting newly married couples etc.



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Our most recent initiative was inviting the Parish to six weeks of prayer from the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary to the Feast of Christ the King, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide us on the next steps towards renewing our faith community. Receiving, on completion of these six weeks, the unexpected news of the impending departure of the Dominicans was, as you can imagine, surprising! However, in faith we believe the Lord is preparing our Parish to receive new things (Jr 29:11) and we look forward with confidence to participating in the North Canberra consultation this year, which you outline in your letter.

In the meantime, we would value meeting with you soon to share simply our sense of where the Lord might be leading us in this coming period of discernment.
Praying you have a blessed 2023 ahead,

in Christ,

The members of Rosary Parish Renewal Group

Sabina Coles
Jacquie Cortese
Melanie Cox
Emily Hall
Keith Linard
Peter McDonald
Roger Paul
Richard & Siobhan Tanzer
Fr Mannes Tellis
Kate Watson
Helena Zobec



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