

# PARISH INTEREST GROUPS: TERMS OF REFERENCE

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of St Anthony's Parish Catholic Interest Groups is to enhance community bonds by uniting parishioners around shared interests or those seeking to expand their knowledge and skills in specific areas. These groups are designed to cultivate fellowship and active participation, thereby strengthening both the spiritual and social connections within the parish.

## 2. Objectives

- To create opportunities for parishioners to connect and engage through activities centred around a shared interest.
- To build a supportive and vibrant community that enhances each member's experience of parish life.
- To contribute to the overall mission of the parish by integrating this common interest with faith-based activities and service
- To provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for both new and existing parishioners.

## 3. Membership

- Open to all parishioners and the parish school community interested in the group's specific focus, regardless of age, background, or experience.

## 4. Activities

- The interest could be anything from a hobby, special interest, study topic, cultural activity or service project.
- The topic of the interest groups should reflect and uphold Catholic Values and Principles
- The interest group must receive approval from both the Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Council before being established. The request for formation of the group must be submitted to the Parish Office.
- The activities, practices of the interest groups should reflect and uphold Catholic Values and Principles.
- Integration of spiritual elements, such as prayer or reflection into meetings to maintain a connection with the group's faith foundation.
- There needs to be at least one co-ordinator for a Parish Interest Group.
- The Co-ordinator of the Group is responsible for facilitating activities within the group, communicate with parish administration and manage logistical needs.
- The interest group should aim to convene at least three times annually until they are concluded.

## 5. Communication and Promotion

- New Interest Groups and ongoing activities of established Interest Groups should be publicised in the parish and School bulletins, ensuring everyone is informed.

- The Parish office will collect contact information of parishioner or members of the school community wishing to attend.

#### **6. Respect**

- Members of St Anthony Parish Interest Group are expected to exhibit behaviour that is respectful, inclusive, and reflective of Catholic Values during the group's meetings and gatherings.
- Parishioners' privacy should be always respected and any public sharing of the details collected or promotion activities of the group need to be approved of by all Interest group members

#### **7. Review and Evaluation**

- Annual review of the Group's objectives, activities and overall impact to ensure it continues to meet the needs of its members and contribute to the parish and Archdiocese mission. with the parish and archdiocese focus areas and feedback form parishioners.