

STRATEGIC PLAN JULY ST ANTHONY’S PARISH 2024/2025

MISSION: TO INSPIRE AND EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY TO GROW IN FAITH, UPHOLD CHRISTIAN VALUES, AND ENGAGE ACTIVELY IN THE MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE LISMORE DIOCESE’S OVERALL STRATEGIC PLAN

GOALS: Five short term goals were identified: Worship, Discipleship, Community, Communications and Marketing, Organisation and Finance.

These goals focus on three key activities Community, Communication and Worship.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

1. COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE: To boost Mass attendance and foster a deep sense of belonging and connection with the parish community.

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	WHO	T/FRAME	TARGETS
1.1 Understand why key target groups are not attending Mass	<p>Conduct a focus group with teachers from the parish to gain their personal and professional insights on factors influencing Mass attendance among themselves and the parents of children in Catholic Schools</p> <p>Survey a sample of high school students in one of the regional catholic high schools to gauge their thoughts about mass attendance and what could be done to better engage high school students in attending Sunday mass and/or parish activities</p>	<p>School Principals and deputy Principals and Carmel Hill</p> <p>Angela Finkel and Carmel Hill</p>	December	<p>Report tabled at June 2025 meeting</p> <p>Report tabled at Aug 2025 meeting</p>
1.2 Build a sense of Community through existing family groups	Promote, support and grow existing Passionate family groups by systematically sharing information, developing constructive guidelines, understanding wider community perceptions and making membership accessible	Catherine Holliday	Now and ongoing	Terms of reference for existing family groups to be written (tabled at Aug 2025 meeting), but decision made as the groups were working, to leave groups as they are functioning and to support them more.

				Decision made to create social groups that have more informal get-togethers. Terms of reference written about social groups to be tabled at Aug 2025 meeting
1.3 Introduce new interest-based groups	Encourage parishioners to connect over common interest designed to build and share knowledge.	Catherine Holliday/Carmel Hill	Now and ongoing	Terms of reference written and promoted to parish in July 2025
1.4 Revise Baptism packs to highlight the benefits of regular mass attendance for families	Small working party to Update Baptism packs to promote the virtues of Mass attendance for families	Working party with Catherine Holliday	Now	New Pack completed and now in use
1.5 Further Support the fun raising efforts of charity/community groups who have a longstanding relationship with parish	Ask St Vincent de Paul on how we can better support them		Now and ongoing	St Vincent de Paul appreciative of existing support but asked if we can fundraise more, and if so that would be helpful

2. COMMUNICATION

OBJECTIVE: Enhance the Parish's visibility and reputation within the broader local community

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	WHO	T/FRAME	TARGETS
2.1 Maintain and strengthen relationships with existing and new community groups	Identify community groups or events for increased parish engagement	Small working party with Father Paul	Ongoing	To carry over in 2025/26
2.2 Promote parish happenings through existing community media outlets	Send Promotion material to community Radio 89.3 and local Newspaper	Catherine Holliday	Now and ongoing	Promotion material regularly sent
Promote Parish happenings through website and a new more visible noticeboard	Enhance website site and establish a visible community noticeboard that is regularly updated	Small working party with Catherine Holliday	Now and ongoing	Noticeboard and website to be completed by July 2026

Publicize Parish mass times within community	Create postcards for distribution to local Hotels, hospital, St Vincent de Paul	Catherine Holliday	September	Postcards completed but not yet sent
Increase Parish profile by community engagement	Actively Engage with two major community events a year 2024/25 - Anzac Day 2025 and Community funday dec 2024	Small working party established for each event	April and December 2024	Anzac day had high profile participation. December event had visible parish presence
Provide a helpful service to Parishioners so they can more easily connect with local services	Create and promote a directory of parishioner's businesses as a helpful resource	Small working Party	February 2025	Directory to be completed in August 2025

3. WORSHIP

OBJECTIVE: Provide worship experiences that are welcoming, engaging and spiritually nourishing

3.1 Ongoing Commitment to enhancing hospitality within the parish	Review the training and recruitment of hospitality volunteers	Small working party	October	Updated Training completed. 2 training sessions held end of 2024
3.2 Establish opportunities for social connectiveness after Mass	Publicise and promote Parish morning teas /supper twice a year	Catherine Holliday and Small working party	Now and ongoing	Not yet decided on: Concerns are not having enough volunteers. School Morning teas are promoted widely and completed.
3.3 Enhance the music program to increase satisfaction and fulfillment among attendees	Appoint a part time parish music co-ordinator	Father Paul and Catherine Holliday		Co-ordinator appointed- Sharon Campbell. Third Thursday of the month practice session. Pottsville invited but wish to continue as they are.
3.4 Enhance the music program, increase visibility of the Parish, and facilitate social connectiveness through a common interest	Explore the viability of a combined parishes community choir	Music Co-ordinator/ the combined parishes working party	Now- September	No decision made. Explore option of promoting existing community choir that practices in Pottsville school.
3.5	Pre-mass activities and rituals explored	Music Coordinator	December	Discussion to Continue about pre-recorded bells to be heard

To examine alternate ways of welcoming parishioners to mass		and small working party		by parishioners in the church. Have discussed the possibility of a parishioner welcoming everyone to Mass and then welcoming the priest.
3.6 To develop mass intention cards for celebration and remembrance	Cards and terms of reference developed	Carmel Hill	December	Completed cards and terms of reference. In both churches Aug 2025
3.7 To create a physical environment and space which supports Catholic devotion	Physical Space of the two churches explored and suggestions for improvements involving minor modifications made	Working party chaired by Catherine Holliday	February	Terry Sheridan is going to get quote for tables back of church. Planters and plants are be explored for entrance of both churches. No discussion about Pottsville church. Have discussed possibility of airconditioning unit but will need to fundraise.