

Welcome

The Good Shepherd Church is a Catholic Christian community of disciples of Jesus Christ. We realise that we are all on a spiritual journey of holiness. What is important is not where we are on this journey, but that we are on the journey itself striving to encounter Jesus Christ personally and more profoundly through a regular Sacramental and deeper prayer life. We extend a warm and encouraging welcome to all people regardless of their struggles and failures, regardless of their progress on the spiritual journey, supporting each other as we grow as a community together in the light of Jesus Christ as we open our hearts to what God calls each one of us to do.

How can this all work? We do so by entering into relationships with one another, doing this together. Clear expectations are the heart of all healthy relationships.

So what can parishioners expect from the parish?

Reverential liturgies by the parish priest with appropriate celebrations with Bishop Patrick as indicated. An environment in which will help you to be transformed as a person, into the person God desires you to be.

An environment in which you will be valued and recognised as having unique gifts and talents to be used in the service of God.

An environment where you will be encouraged to use your gifts from God to help others as well as enhance the life of the parish community.

A place where you will be loved and supported in your spiritual journey regardless of your struggles and anxieties in life.

An environment in which your needs will be listened to and addressed.

An environment where your input will be valued.

A place where all your financial contributions will be appreciated and put to good use to grow the Kingdom of God conducted with transparency and accountability.

What is expected of you as a parishioner of the Good Shepherd parish?

Worship: we must gather each Sunday to celebrate God's Word and the Eucharist. Most importantly we are encouraged to attend weekly Holy Mass on the Lord's day so that we may be nourished for our spiritual journey as we receive the necessary graces we need to continue to love God and one another.

Growth: we are encouraged to learn and grow, this being a lifelong mission. When we no longer do so we become complacent, lukewarm and stagnant in our walk with Jesus Christ. It is therefore important to commit to regular faith formation programmes on offer; in the parish or online or other avenues that may be available to you. This helps us to grow in our Faith, our community grows in strength and in this way we become a healthy Church.

Serve: "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve" Mark 10:45

Our core belief is to serve God and to serve one another. The Church can only be healthy if we serve Truth.

Every individual has something to offer, without exception, something they can do well and do for the Kingdom of God. How can you be involved in the parish life?

Connect: we are not just a collection of individuals who gather each week for an hour of worship, but a community that connects collectively as we are truly accountable to one another. This obviously is a great challenge due to the large size of our parish so it's important that this is carried out with due diligence. We like to see each parishioner being an integral part of parish life, reaching out and connecting with others.

To Give: we give out of our gratitude to God. The more the parish receives the more we can do for the building of the Kingdom of God, the more we can help the poor (Emmanuel House/ Arnold food Bank/SVP etc) We are also responsible for meeting the running costs of the parish and the expenses of the parish priest. If someone has less, they give less. If someone has more, they give more. We render to God the first fruits of our labour at the weekly offerings at Sunday Holy Masses.

The above statement is hopeful in encouraging a parish with a viable future and vision. So we strive together to play our part in bringing this to fruition under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

God Bless you all.