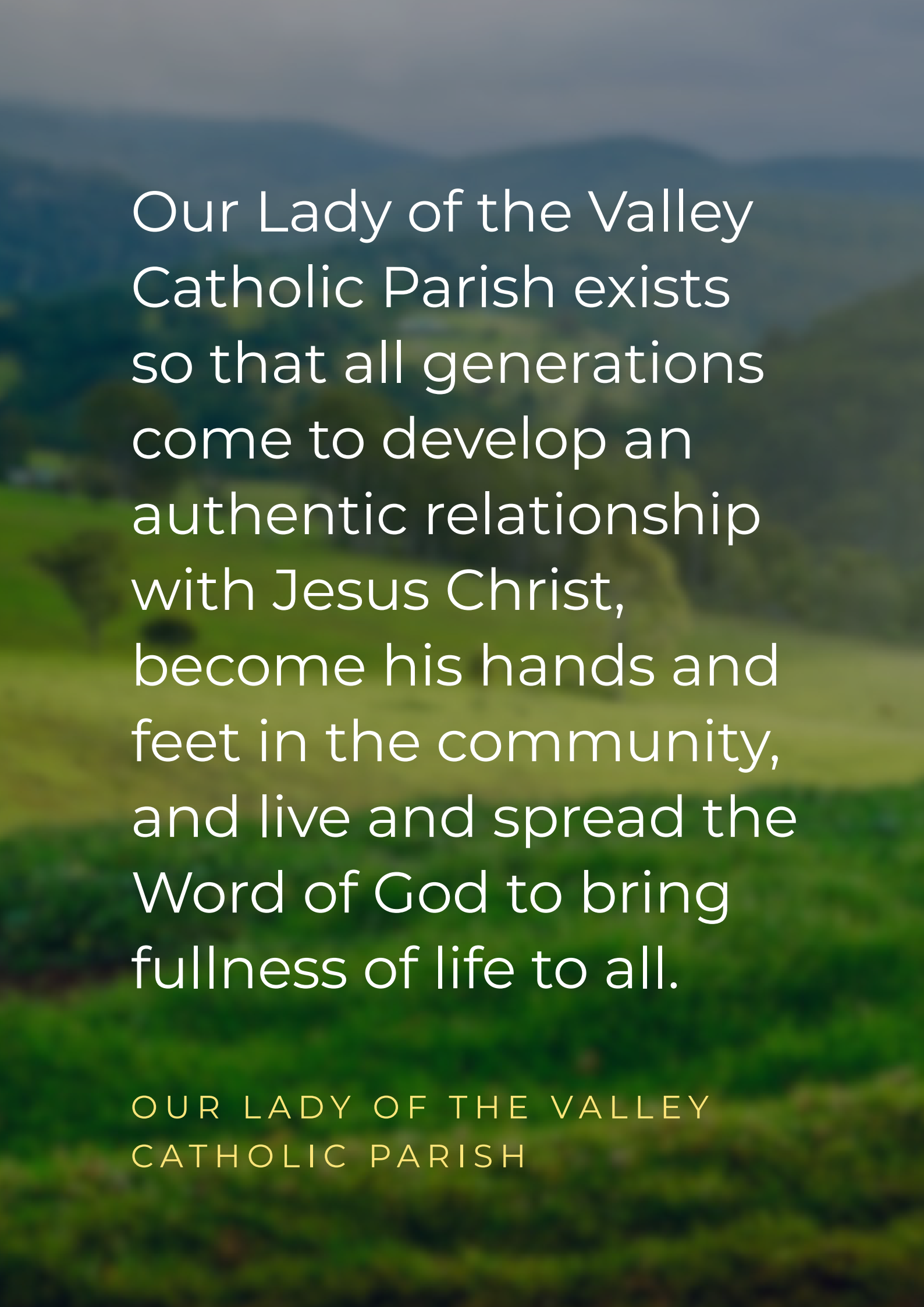


OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC PARISH



PASTORAL PLAN



Our Lady of the Valley
Catholic Parish exists
so that all generations
come to develop an
authentic relationship
with Jesus Christ,
become his hands and
feet in the community,
and live and spread the
Word of God to bring
fullness of life to all.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY
CATHOLIC PARISH

PRIEST'S FOREWORD



LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

In a world marked by uncertainty, division, and fragile peace, today's geopolitical realities remind us that lasting hope is found in God alone. We are called to turn again to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and to live His way of love, mercy, and reconciliation.

Within this context, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Gatton Laidley, presents this pastoral plan for the coming years. Grounded in our mission to foster an authentic relationship with Jesus and to become His living presence, we strive to be a joyful, inclusive, Christ-centred, and Spirit-led community.

As Jesus promises in John 10:10, *"I have come that they may have life and life in abundance,"* this vision guides all our efforts.

We seek to become an irresistible witness to Christ's merciful face, nourished by the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. Formed as disciples and empowered by baptism, each member is called to serve, build up the Body of Christ, and participate in the Church's mission.

Entrusting this journey to the maternal intercession of Our Lady, we pray that our parish may grow as a place of belonging, conversion, and hope for all.

Parish Priest
Fr. Emmanuel Ayankudy CMI





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MISSION

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish exists so that all generations come to develop an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, become his hands and feet in the community, and live and spread the Word of God to bring fullness of life to all.

VALUES

- ▶ JOYFUL
- ▶ INCLUSIVE
- ▶ INSPIRATIONAL
- ▶ LOVING
- ▶ CHRIST-CENTRED
- ▶ AUTHENTIC



VISION

We have a dream that our parish becomes an irresistible witness of the face of Christ to the wider community;

where disciples spread the joy of the Gospel and are constantly nourished by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist;

where parishioners are seen to be fully engaged in worship, completely guided by the Holy Spirit and seek an encounter with Jesus each time we gather;

where all members feel empowered to live out their baptismal promises as they serve one another and nurture each other's gifts and talents, offered in service for the mission of the parish community;

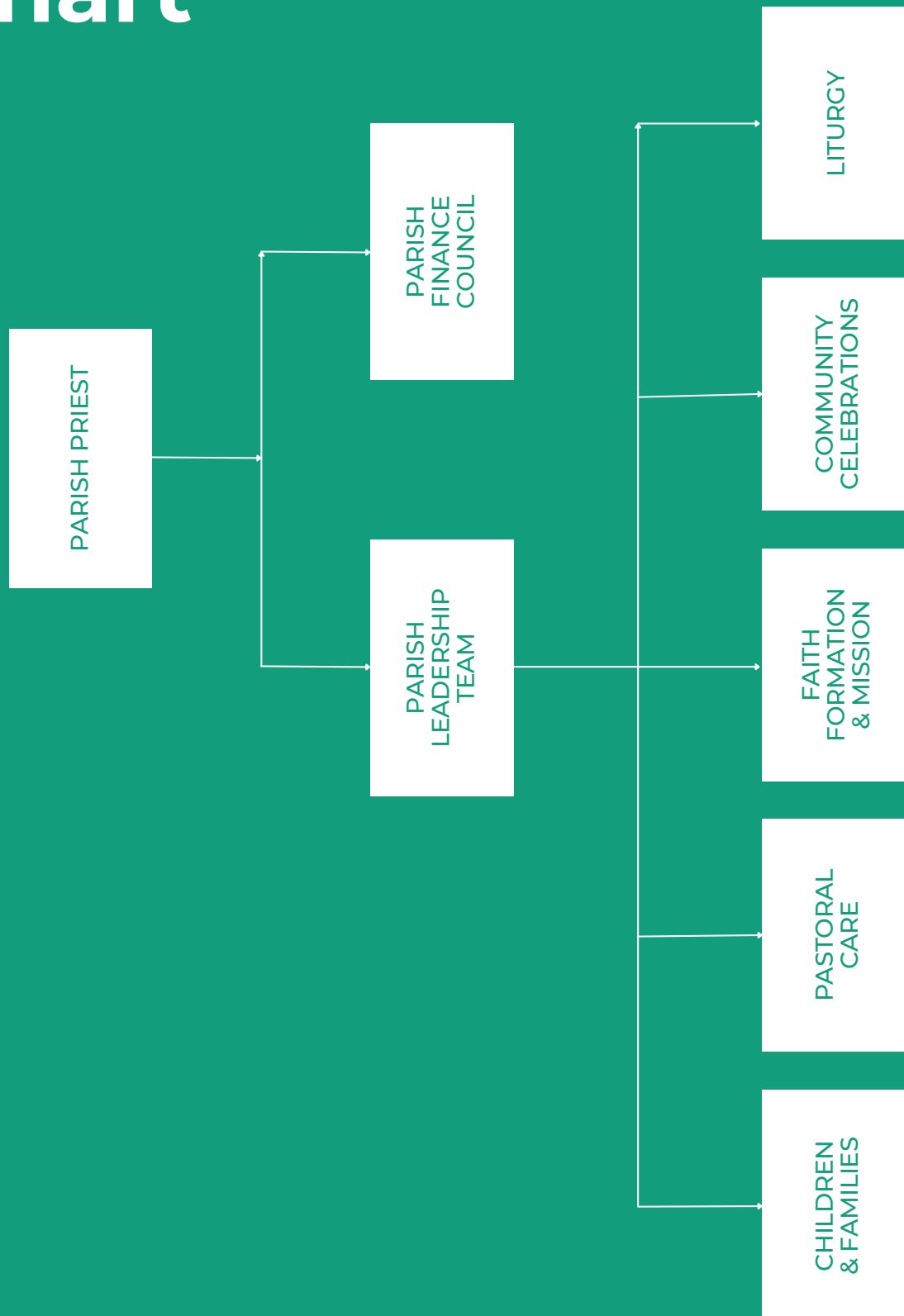
where people from all walks of life, the young and the old, are attracted, excited and enthusiastic to belong to this Christ-like community;

where people are drawn in large numbers to our welcoming and inclusive Church, and find a home of deep spiritual belonging that is joyous, intentional and hope-filled;

and where people encounter the rich tradition of the Church that is expressed in fresh and engaging ways to deepen, renew and bring to life an active, living faith anchored in the Holy Trinity.



Mission Organisational Chart



GLOSSARY

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM (PLT)

This is a decision-making leadership team that supports the parish priest to foster the pastoral and missionary activity of the parish. This team champions the whole pastoral plan and makes sure that each ministry leadership team in the parish is empowered, encouraged and supported.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL (PFC)

This council supports the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish (finances, property, etc.). In addition, the Finance Council supports the parish priest in legal and risk matters pertaining to the parish. In the missionary work of the parish, the Finance Council provides advice to enable sound financial decisions to be made that further the mission of the parish.

MINISTRY AREAS

Our parish has five ministry areas (Children & Families, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation and Mission, Community Celebrations, and Liturgy).

There is a leadership team for each ministry area who, in consultation with the PLT, is the decision-making body and responsible for the flourishing of the ministry. These ministry areas will ensure that every group has a place to go for support, to be empowered and to find encouragement, and enable all groups to stay connected to the broader parish plan.





WHOLE OF PARISH

OUTCOME ONE

The parish has a vibrant and compelling leadership pathway that attracts and forms emerging leaders.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Establish and communicate a simple leadership pathway that invites people to belong, grow, serve, lead, and multiply by January 2027.
- b. Provide regular, practical leadership formation (e.g. CLI) that helps emerging leaders recognise their gifts and develop the skills, confidence, and capacity to lead and disciple others commencing in January 2027.
- c. Create intentional opportunities for leaders to deepen their love for Jesus and grow as disciples (e.g. annual leadership retreat) commencing August 2026.
- d. Foster a culture of leadership growth through relationship, feedback, and accountability, using accompaniment, check-ins and shared reflection.

OUTCOME TWO

The parish is sustained by a large and spirit-filled volunteer base with ministry teams fully resourced and thriving.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Create a parish culture where service is joyful and mission-driven through modelling by leaders, celebrating volunteers, and consistently connecting service to the parish's shared vision and mission.
- b. Communicate the purpose and impact of each ministry area regularly through the newsletter, website, social media and other parish forums, to help parishioners discern where and how they are called to serve.
- c. Invite parishioners into volunteering through relational, one-to-one invitation that names the 'why' of service, recognises individual gifts and talents, and affirms their capacity to contribute meaningfully.
- d. Create a model of team-based volunteering with practical onboarding and ongoing care to ensure volunteering is enjoyable and sustainable.

OUTCOME THREE

The parish has an intentional culture of belonging, centred on a relationship with Jesus.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Ensure the parish's vision, mission, and values are consistently referenced and visible, guiding priorities, prayer, decision-making, communication, and the overall tone of parish life.
- b. Clearly articulate what belonging means in this parish and ensure it is consistently modelled by all leadership, shaping how people are welcomed, accompanied, invited into relationship, and supported to connect more deeply.
- c. Create regular opportunities for parishioners to share how Jesus is at work in their lives during parish gatherings, events, and key moments by February 2027.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

PURPOSE

Our vision is to nurture the faith of children and walk alongside families as they discover the love of Jesus and grow together in Christ. As a community we seek to be strengthened in prayer and formation by bringing the joy of the Gospel into family life and beyond.

OUTCOME ONE

We have a visible, cooperative and collaborative parish-schools relationship.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Collaborate with schools to have class-led weekly parish Masses with invitations extended to participants' families by February 2027.
- b. Actively promote key parish Masses to school families and teachers to encourage participation (e.g. Multicultural Mass).
- c. Conduct biannual altar server training at Gatton and Laidley for new altar servers by December 2026.

OUTCOME TWO

We have an engaging and inclusive Children & Families ministry.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Recruit 3 more volunteers for Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9am Mass at St Mary's Gatton by December 2027.
- b. Facilitate an older and younger Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9am Mass at St Mary's Gatton by December 2028.
- c. Recruit 3 volunteers to establish Children's Liturgy of the Word at every 9am Mass at St Patrick's Laidley by December 2026.
- d. Organise biannual kids' activities (e.g. praying in art, social justice projects, barbecue) and actively promote through the schools, commencing in March 2027.
- e. Prepare and present age-appropriate children's faith development activities (bible study, lent activities) by March 2028.



OUTCOME THREE

We welcome and nurture a growing community of children and families.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Coordinate a quarterly Family Mass and fellowship by March 2027.
- b. In consultation with our Catholic schools, include an invitation in school enrolment packs to parish children and families activities by December 2026.
- c. Review the sacramental preparation invitation process to ensure it is welcoming, clear, and inclusive by March 2027.
- d. Invite children and their families to serve monthly in parish ministries (e.g. reading, altar serving, etc.).
- e. Establish a baptism preparation team to accompany parents as they prepare for their child's baptism and connection to parish life, by September 2026.



FAITH FORMATION & MISSION

PURPOSE

Our vision is to nurture lifelong growth in faith by drawing each person into a deeper relationship with Christ. As a parish family, we journey together supporting and inspiring one another to become faithful disciples who live the Gospel with wisdom, courage, and love.

OUTCOME ONE

We provide accessible formation opportunities that nurture personal and authentic prayer.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Offer 'Come and See' events twice a year commencing February 2027.
- b. Produce a quarterly newsletter, "Faith Journal", that includes reflections, resource recommendations and prayers, by July 2026.
- c. Design and print prayer cards to be available at the back of every church by December 2026.
- d. Recruit 5 new Alpha team members and run Alpha twice a year by December 2028.

OUTCOME TWO

Opportunities exist for parishioners to deepen their faith through ongoing spiritual renewal.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Offer at least 2 annual retreats for different audiences and seasons.
- b. Run 4 encounter nights per year by December 2027.
- c. Coordinate a continuous schedule of bible studies, Lenten groups and small groups by January 2028.
- d. Create and implement an intentional outreach to post-OCIA and lapsed Catholics by December 2028.

OUTCOME THREE

Parishioners are encouraged and equipped to share their faith and walk alongside others.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Provide training sessions for potential leaders of small groups, bible studies and prayer & formation events by December 2028.
- b. Prepare and provide formation for a Parish Mission Week, in collaboration with all ministry areas, by December 2027.
- c. Launch the inaugural Parish Mission Week in 2028.





PASTORAL CARE

PURPOSE

Our vision is to share Christ's compassion by caring for the spiritual, emotional, and practical needs of our parish family who are suffering illness, infirmity or loneliness. Through prayer, presence, and service, we seek to bring hope, comfort, and love, ensuring that every person knows they are seen, valued, and never alone.

OUTCOME ONE

The parish effectively listens and responds to current and emerging needs of our parishioners.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Identify clear communication pathways to convey community needs to the Pastoral Care Team by December 2026.
- b. Embed these communication pathways in the culture of the parish by June 2027.
- c. Communicate articulated needs effectively to the parish community via newsletter, website and mass announcements by February 2027.
- d. Collate reported pastoral needs in a database to ensure care is provided and followed up by September 2026.

OUTCOME TWO

We provide loving, inclusive care for those experiencing grief and loss.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Recruit 20 people to participate in the funeral, grief and loss support team by December 2027.
- b. Train volunteers in leading funerals and grief and loss accompaniment by June 2027.
- c. Continue to facilitate annual Ageing Wisely and Releasing the Tears events and continue the Grief and Loss Card Ministry.
- d. Consider additional opportunities to support the grief and loss needs of the parish by November 2027.

OUTCOME THREE

We ensure no parishioner feels isolated in their home or care facility.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Recruit 10 volunteers to coordinate home and care facility visitations by September 2026.
- b. Provide Eucharist (and accompanying liturgies) to those who are sick, elderly and isolated by September 2026.
- c. Coordinate transport to Mass for those who require assistance by December 2026.
- d. Coordinate quarterly Anointing Masses and host additional activities after the Mass, such as a morning tea for grandparents, by December 2027.





COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

PURPOSE

Our vision is to build a vibrant parish life by creating joyful opportunities for community, hospitality, and connection. Through gatherings, events, and celebrations of praise and gratitude, we seek to reflect the joy of the Gospel, strengthen relationships, and help every person feel welcomed within our parish family.

OUTCOME ONE

We are a community who gathers for events and celebrations that give glory to God.

STRATEGIES:

- a. In collaboration with the Liturgy Team, coordinate an annual Thanksgiving Mass that celebrates our volunteers and parish achievements by October 2026.
- b. In collaboration with the Children & Families Team, identify opportunities to celebrate church feast days in a family-friendly and fun way at least twice a year by December 2027.
- c. Coordinate an Annual Parish Dinner by July 2027.
- d. Coordinate fundraising events (e.g. a trivia night), in collaboration with the Parish Finance Council, to support key initiatives of all ministry teams that serve the poor and marginalised, develop the mission focus of our parish and increase the skills and expertise of our parishioners by December 2026.
- e. Support Faith Formation and Mission events by providing hospitality and general assistance.





OUTCOME TWO

All people experience a welcoming, joy-filled and inclusive community.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Recruit 3 volunteers to be multilingual welcomers at each Gatton weekend Mass by November 2026.
- b. Create a 'welcome pack' in multiple languages to intentionally offer to all newcomers by December 2026.
- c. Survey parishioners to identify the primary languages used to create essential parish communications by April 2027.
- d. In addition to the weekly hospitality provided after each 9am Mass (e.g. morning tea), coordinate monthly social events after a Vigil Mass (e.g. soup night) by August 2026.
- e. Establish a quarterly event to welcome newcomers, liaising with the Children & Families Team, to include families in sacramental preparation and other new families by February 2027.

OUTCOME THREE

Our cultural communities contribute to our vibrant parish life.

STRATEGIES:

- a. In collaboration with the Liturgy Team, coordinate the annual Multicultural Mass.
- b. Coordinate 2 social events annually that recognise and celebrate cultural communities (e.g. Caritas Dinner and Independence Days) commencing in March 2027.
- c. Identify representatives from each cultural community and meet with them annually to identify key dates to celebrate together commencing in November 2026.





LITURGY

PURPOSE

Our vision is to deepen the worship life of our parish by fostering sacred, Spirit-led liturgies that draw the community into communion with Christ. We dream of a parish where reverence and beauty meet the richness of our diverse cultures and traditions, so that every celebration reflects the mystery of God through prayer, praise, the word and the sacraments.

OUTCOME ONE

Our parish is equipped to provide lay-led liturgy when needed, ensuring meaningful worship continues.

STRATEGIES:

- a. With the Parish Leadership Team, identify 2 lay candidates to lead liturgy for each Mass centre by March 2027.
- b. Develop a lay leader handbook and template by September 2026.
- c. Organise training for identified leaders with the assistance of Liturgy Brisbane by June 2027.

OUTCOME TWO

The engaging, beautiful music in our liturgies lifts our hearts and minds to God.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Recruit 5 new choir members across all Mass centres by October 2026.
- b. Recruit at least 2 additional musicians to play other instruments in each Mass centre by December 2026.
- c. Source 6 contemporary hymns to be learnt by musicians by June 2027.
- d. Coordinate monthly practice of choir members and musicians to rehearse existing and new repertoire, commencing in February 2027.

OUTCOME THREE

Our parish provides high-quality liturgical worship experience for all.

STRATEGIES:

- a. Coordinate special liturgical celebrations each year, such as the Multicultural Mass, All Souls Mass, Christmas and the Easter Triduum, Rosary before Mass in May and October, Stations of the Cross before Mass during Lent, and Second Rite of Reconciliation in Lent and Advent.
- b. Invite cultural communities in our parish to lead worship at a Mass quarterly commencing in September 2026.
- c. Develop well-formed liturgical volunteers by hosting annual Extraordinary Minister and Sacristan training and provide support to readers to grow in their ministry through training, feedback, and their own prayer by March 2027.





OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC PARISH GATTON LAIDLEY

St Joseph's Church, 10 Hunt Street FOREST HILL

St Mary's Church, 15 Maitland Street GATTON

St Therese's Church, 8 Brightview Road, GLENORE GROVE

St Patrick's Church, 1-3 John Street South, LAIDLEY

olv.org.au | 07 5465 3131 | gatton@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office: 37 John Street South, LAIDLEY 4341