



The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus...I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy - Pope Francis EG 1

## A new Parish Council – renewing governance in our parish

### Why renew the Council?

Our parish and Parish Council renewal process responds to the Pope’s invitation to us to renew our Parish life so that we can be effective messengers of the Gospel.<sup>i</sup> He says:

*Every Christian is a missionary to the extent he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ or ‘missionaries’ but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples’ (EG 120)*

### The process for renewing the Council

There are a number of steps to reform the Council – we want the process to be careful and prayerful. The steps are:

1. All parishioners are invited to think and pray about their own calling to serve on Council. If you want to serve talk to another parishioner and ask them to recommend you. If you are unsure, talk to Chris Gration ([gration.chris@gmail.com](mailto:gration.chris@gmail.com)), Caroline Coggins ([caroline.coggins@me.com](mailto:caroline.coggins@me.com)) or Fr Chris Jenkins ([chrisjenkinssj@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisjenkinssj@hotmail.com))
2. Parishioners are invited to recommend individuals to nominate. Recommendations can be left with the Parish Office until 9 April.
3. Anyone who is interested in serving at the Council or understanding more must attend the Parish Discernment Retreat on 17-19 March at Peter Canisius House in North Sydney.
4. Each recommended person will be asked to provide a short statement (1 page) explaining their connection to the life of the Parish, how they feel called, what gifts they bring to the role.
5. If there are more recommendations for nominations than positions to be selected (7) then the short statements will be placed in the Church, and a selection by secret ballot held after the masses on the weekend of 29-30 April.
6. Orientation of new members will begin in May, with formation in the period June – December, 2017.

### What is the timetable

26 February	Information session
26 February – 9 April	Recommendations for nomination
17-19 March	Discernment Retreat – Peter Canisius
18 April	Short statements due
Easter Triduum	14-16 April
29-30 April	Selection
2 May	Last meeting of existing Council
13 June	Formation meeting of new Council

### Parish Mission

The Mission of St Canice’s Parish is laid out below.<sup>ii</sup> It acknowledges the Gadigal people, our Christian Ignatian tradition, and the **sharing of the faith and love we’ve been given by God in Jesus**, especially with the poor, lonely and marginalised

### Parish Council Mission

The purpose of the Parish Council is to:

- promote and develop the Parish and Church Mission
- opportunities for engagement in Mission by the Parish communities





- a spirit of discernment in lay leadership for Mission

The Council works collegially with the Parish Priest, who is the Administrator of the Parish in Canon Law.

## Membership

The Parish Council should comprise 9 members of which 7 are elected:

- 3 people who can represent the Sunday Mass communities
- 4 people who can lead the 4 renewal streams
- 1 person from the Parish Finance Committee
- The Parish Priest.
- The Parish Manager would be a non-voting member of the Council.

Council members would be selected for four year terms, with 50% of Council up for election every 2 years. For the first Council, half would continue for four years, half the positions be up for re election at 2 years

<p><b>Role of Parish Councillor</b></p> <p>In a spirit of prayerfulness each member of the Parish Pastoral Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help guide the development of Mission and Pastoral work of the Parish</li> <li>• help oversight the governance and compliance of the Parish</li> <li>• lead and connect communities of the Parish to the Council</li> <li>• have an area of mission responsibility</li> <li>• attend the regular meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council.</li> <li>• develop a spirit of enquiry and the ability to listen and understand the issues affecting the lives of parishioners.</li> <li>• Provide prayerful support and encouragement for other members of the Parish Pastoral Council.</li> <li>• Actively participate in the implementation of finalised plans of action.</li> <li>• Embrace opportunities for personal faith development and for gaining skills to assist with effective participation in the Council's operations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Skills and Gifts of a Councillor</b></p> <p>Each of us has different gifts that we can offer in servant leadership. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helping lead prayer or reflection groups</li> <li>• helping connect people</li> <li>• leadership in parish ministry</li> <li>• organisational (experience in pulling together teams eg for liturgy, or Choir, or kitchen, or school)</li> <li>• financial (experience with budgets or accounting)</li> <li>• legal</li> <li>• participating in meetings and helping others to participate</li> <li>• marketing</li> </ul>
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## Formation

Parishioners who are selected for Council would bring a variety of gifts to their service – spiritual, professional, personal. The Parish would support these people by providing formation in Mission and Spiritual; Governance; and Pastoral aspects of leadership.

- servant leadership, Ignatian spirituality, the New Evangelisation and Parish Renewal
- Parish history, financial structure of the parish, risk and compliance, effective participation in business meetings
- the 4 Renewal streams, accompaniment and pastoral ministry.





## What you should do if interested

1. Talk to a friend in the parish, Father Chris, Caroline Coggins or Chris Gration.
2. Pray! See how God draws you.
3. Reflect on what gifts you might bring.
4. Ask if a friend would think about recommending you.
5. Attend the discernment retreat on 17-19 March
6. Confirm your decision with recommender and Fr Chris.
7. Write a short statement by 18 April.

<sup>1</sup> *Evangelii Gaudium, 28*

### *Pope Francis 1*

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours ...if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, ... it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few.

The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration.[27] In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers.[28] It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.

We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.

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ii St Canice Parish Mission

*We acknowledge the Gadigal people, the traditional custodians on whose land this church was built. We are Christians in the Ignatian tradition who have only recently inhabited this area and named it Elizabeth Bay and Kings Cross.*

*For 130 years we have sought and found the living God in word and sacrament and one another. We are human beings who need saving and the forgiveness that comes from the love of God in Jesus.*

*All of us – the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad, the defensive and the enquirers, the peace makers and the dividers, the hard of heart and the compassionate – have been given life and hope and faith and love beyond our dreams and we want to share what we have been given, especially with the poor, lonely and marginalised.*

