

## Weekly Message from Fr William for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 2023

Dear People of St Mary's, with this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time we leave behind the Christmas Season and set out into Ordinary Time. As we do so, here's giving you again my words of encouragement at the end of the homily last Sunday: In Baptism we are joined to Christ; in Confirmation we are filled with the Holy Spirit; and then in our weekly celebration of the Eucharist we are taken up with Christ in his going to the Father. Let's keep this in mind as we now switch from the Christmas Season into Ordinary Time, and make our weekly Eucharist, our weekly participation in the life of Grace, an ongoing and regular part of our lives.

And here's a practical bit of admin we do each year as we set out into Ordinary Time – elections to the Parish Pastoral Council. There are two positions to fill on the PPC this year – the representative for our Liturgy ministries, and the representative for our Interaction ministries. For the first time I want to bring our Ministers of the Word onto the list of possible candidates for representing our Liturgy ministries. This reflects our growing understanding of their liturgical role, and how they are essential to our celebration of the Liturgy, in parallel with our Eucharistic Ministers, and the ongoing formation they receive in parallel with them. See my weekly message to you for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Interaction ministries comprise volunteers involved in parish communications, media, welcomers, social function organisers, churches together, and for the first time our volunteers running the Warm Welcome initiative.

Timing for the elections will follow the directions given in the PPC constitution. Accordingly, this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time provisional lists of candidates are displayed on the Atrium noticeboard, and here's inviting you this Sunday to look at the lists and let me know by this Wednesday if you think they are erroneous or incomplete. Next Sunday, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, definitive lists will be displayed on the Atrium noticeboard, and I'll be inviting you to submit nominations of candidates for the election. Then on the Fourth Sunday I'll inform the parish those who have been nominated and will provide you each with the opportunity to vote on the nominated candidates.

The constitution also makes provision for electing to the PPC a member of the parish who does not have a role in any of the five ministry groups: Liturgy, Outreach, Support, Formation, Interaction. This option is available when one of the appointed members of the PPC finishes their term, as is the case this year. So you will be electing to the PPC potentially a third member.

I'll remind you of all this in my next two weekly messages and give more detailed guidance of what's involved. Meantime please check in the Atrium the lists of potential candidates for our Liturgy ministries and our Interaction ministries and let me know of any errors or omissions by Wednesday this week.



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023