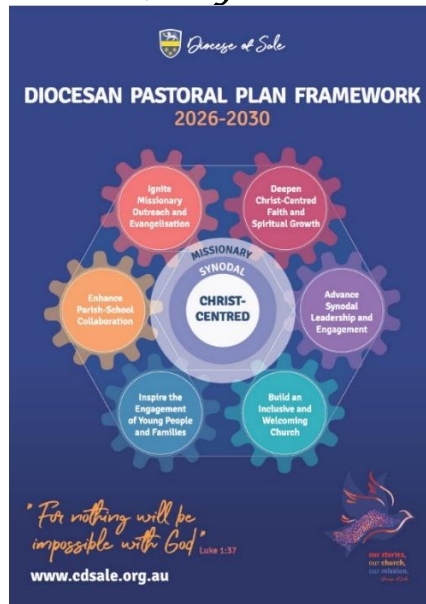


St John's Parish Trafalgar Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2026 - 2030



*Including the churches of St John's Trafalgar, St Jarlath's Yarragon,
St Joseph's School and all the communities that make up our parish family.*



Many people have contributed to this plan therefore, I would like to thank

- ✓ Fr Bernard for his support and encouragement
- ✓ parishioners for their valuable and enthusiastic participation
- ✓ Assembly Delegates from 2025
- ✓ the Pastoral Council and Friends for their time and effort
- ✓ St Joseph's School for continued support and printing throughout the process
- ✓ and in particular, Lucy O'Connell for her leadership and untiring work in publishing this document and the numerous colour-coded pages along the way!

While the Plan covers 2026 to 2030, we have concentrated on several goals to be worked on in 2026-27.

The plan will then be reviewed as needed for 2028-2030.

Judith Campbell
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council,
July 2026



Deepen Christ-Centred Faith and Spiritual Growth

To nurture and deepen the spiritual life of the people of the Diocese through experiences of prayer, liturgy, and faith formation that transform our Parish Communities, drawing us all into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

- a. Offer meaningful liturgical experiences and prayer practices that help individuals nurture a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- b. Develop and implement engaging faith formation opportunities tailored to different life stages – that encourage lifelong learning and spiritual development.
- c. Support individuals and communities in exploring diverse pathways for spiritual growth, renewal, and committed discipleship, deepening both personal faith and communal identity.

SYNODAL

CHRIST CENTERED

MISSIONARY

- **2026** – To deepen our understanding of what happens at Mass, introduce a short explanation a few minutes before the Commentary to explain the various parts of the Mass.
- **2027-** Encourage inter-church relations through shared faith discussions open to the communities.
- Supporting prayer groups
- Continue to build on Baptism Program and processes.
-

Advance Synodal Leadership and Engagement

To foster vibrant communities grounded in a culture of listening, shared leadership, and co-responsible participation – empowering all, both clergy and lay, to actively engage in the life and mission of the Church.

- a. Encourage open, respectful dialogue and active listening across all levels of the community to build trust, mutual understanding and a sense of belonging.
- b. Actively invite and support all baptised individuals to engage in the Church's life and mission, recognising and nurturing their unique gifts, vocations, and roles.
- c. Provide formation and support for clergy and lay leaders to adopt collaborative leadership, fostering accountability, co-responsibility, and a spirit of service in all aspects of mission.

SYNODAL

CHRIST CENTERED

MISSIONARY

- **2026** - Continue to foster sense of belonging to our parish.
- **2026 and ongoing:** Encourage more people to be directly involved in Liturgical Ministries, including Liturgy of the Word, Offertory Procession, Commentary, leading Liturgy of the Word with Communion.
- Enhance regular prayer recognising different religions, race and social groups
- Supporting Baptism team as they engage families in their faith journey

Build an Inclusive and Welcoming Church

To be a welcoming Church that radiates acceptance and serves as a beacon of hope and a refuge for all – especially those in need – through compassionate presence, inclusive community, and faithful service.

- Continue to cultivate inclusive communities that actively welcome and support individuals experiencing physical, mental, emotional or spiritual marginalisation, ensuring they feel seen, valued, and connected.
- Pursue meaningful engagement with First Nations peoples through ongoing recognition, appreciation, advocacy for justice and reconciliation, grounded in respect and sustained commitment.
- Support initiatives that foster healing and reconciliation in response to past harm or division, both within the Church and the broader community, creating pathways for restoration and unity.
- Enhance pastoral care by developing robust, compassionate support structures that address the diverse needs of individuals and families, offering practical assistance and spiritual accompaniment.

SYNODAL

CHRIST CENTERED

MISSIONARY

- **2026** - Announce and invite people to the cuppas after Mass, as an opportunity to chat with others, share ideas and generally build social connections
- **2026** - Welcome parishioners and visitors as they arrive for Mass, using their names if possible.
- **2026** - Invite families to join in special occasions in the parish e.g. Christmas & Easter (liaise with the school)
- **2026 and ongoing:** Grow in understanding of the protocols for safeguarding all in our parish
- Social gatherings including the school

Inspire the Engagement of Young People and Families

To engage and empower young people and families to actively shape the life and mission of the Church – through age-appropriate faith-based initiatives that encourage leadership and participation, strongly supported by the parish community.

- Develop and promote accessible, meaningful opportunities for families and young people to actively participate in the Church's life and mission, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose.
- Cultivate vibrant faith experiences and leadership development pathways that inspire and equip young people to grow in faith and serve with confidence and commitment.
- Encourage and resource initiatives that nurture faith within the family context, recognising families as foundational communities of spiritual growth and discipleship.
- Promote meaningful connections and shared experiences across generations to build unity, encourage mutual learning, and deepen the communal life of the Church.

SYNODAL

CHRIST CENTERED

MISSIONARY

- Use social media to include young people
- Develop a Youth/Young Adult Program

Enhance Parish-School Collaboration

To strengthen partnerships between Catholic schools and parishes by fostering united, vibrant faith communities grounded in shared mission, mutual support and co-responsibility.

- Design and implement meaningful opportunities for joint liturgies, prayer, social justice initiatives, service projects, and catechesis that strengthen unity between parish and school communities.
- Foster deeper collaboration between parishes and schools to support the evangelisation of young people and families through shared mission coordinated engagement, and mutual support.
- Ensure that Catholic identity and Gospel values are clearly expressed and actively lived out in both pastoral ministry and education settings, shaping culture, relationships, and decision-making.

SYNODAL

CHRIST CENTERED

MISSIONARY

- 2026** - Parish News on school newsletter (monthly)
Cynthia & Elly
- 2027** - Have a parish 'companion' to journey with sacramental students
- 2027** – School/Parish Liturgy (Weekday 3pm) in the school at the beginning of the school year to introduce staff and parish council members
- Promote improved two-way communication with the school

Ignite Missionary Outreach and Evangelisation

To inspire and empower all generations to live as missionary disciples, sharing Christ's love through joyful witness, acts of justice and care for all of creation.

- Provide ongoing formation and practical support that equips individuals to actively live out and share their faith, embracing their call to be committed missionary disciples in everyday life.
- Develop and promote initiatives that reflect the Church's commitment to social justice and ecological responsibility, inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the vision of '*Laudato Si'*'.
- Encourage respectful dialogue and active engagement with other Christian denominations and faith traditions, building bridges of mutual understanding, collaboration and unity.
- Strengthen digital evangelisation efforts and communication strategies to effectively share the Gospel, engage diverse audiences, and build meaningful connections in online spaces.

SYNODAL

CHRIST CENTERED

MISSIONARY

- 2026** - Inter-church community activities - Morning Tea- 2nd Friday of the month, open to all
- 2026/Advent** Local newspaper articles monthly to advertise events, & activities in the parish
- 2026** - To invite and support baptism families to participate in parish life
- 2027** - Advertise and promote participation in inter-church events. E.g. World Day of Prayer, Pentecost Sunday etc.
- Affirm those currently visiting the housebound and Andrews House and review the visitation protocols for the future.
- Inter-faith engagement (other faiths)
- Enhance understanding of the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching regarding social justice and ecological responsibility
- A Parish Facebook Page
- Website for Missionary Outreach and Evangelization
- Stall at Traf markets as vehicle to connect & have conversations