



June 2025 Parish Report

A major event of June involved our leadership group, the Parish Leadership and Development Team (PLDT) taking part in a formation session on the future of our parish, run by our Discernment Group. This is a continuation of our discernment process, reported on in last Sunday's newsletter, on the future vision and structure of our parish. Scenario planning is not about predicting the future or risk assessment, rather it's a tool to aid in understanding and embracing complexities. The opportunity at this workshop was to think big and in a wider context. Over a night and a day, members of the PLDT rose to this challenge, putting their minds to identifying key influences that could impact our future, identifying potential 'disrupters', putting all this on a scale of 'certainty' and 'uncertainty' and then identifying four scenarios of impact upon our parish, which were then tested for plausibility over the next decade. The Discernment Group took away this work and will now flesh out the indicative scenarios into full-blown scenario stories, inserting timelines and other influences as required. These will come back to the PLDT for feedback, after which they will be used to provide final input into the next planning workshop for the whole parish. We thank the members of the PLDT for committing their time, energy and effort into this workshop, it was both exhausting and energising. Well done.

June is the month for both our feast days: Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Columba of Iona. The former is a movable feast day, as it always takes place 19 days after Easter on a Friday, and as we know Easter moves around every year. This makes it tricky to celebrate the two together. However, we found a way. On Thursday, 5 June we joined in celebration with St Columba Primary School to celebrate St Columba Day at morning Mass. The students did a great presentation on the life of St Columba and how it speaks to them (and us) today. They reminded us that we are called to be caring, principled, knowledgeable, open-minded, thinkers, communicators, risk-takers, balanced and reflective. Later that day, Sacred Heart Mission celebrated Sacred Heart Day with an expo on their services, which reflected on many of those aspects the students had identified earlier in the day. As a grade six student stated, "St Columba taught us that no matter who we are or where we live, we can bring hope to the world... We can help others, care for our world, and make a difference...". This totally interlinks with the vision of Sacred Heart Mission, working towards an 'Inclusive and fair society where everyone can live a fulfilling life'. These values of welcome, community, kindness, integrity and courage doubtlessly were driving St Columba when he stepped off the boat on the Island of Iona and sought to bring hope to that little community.

(PTO)



We were excited to have another person join our RCIA group exploring our faith and looking to grow closer to God in community. Our current group is lively, curious and committed to this journey. They all come from very different backgrounds, and we share great learnings among each other, as well as a lot of laughter. We leave our hour-long session buoyant and feeling incredibly nourished by the Spirit. There is always room for supporters, if anyone would like to join us, just email Christine to discuss whether this is the group for you (her email address on the front of the newsletter).

The large number of funerals continued in June from both Sacred Heart Mission and Parish. Slowly but surely our funeral support group is growing, and we are getting into a better routine of calling out these supporters to our various funerals to participate in prayerful presence or help out with hospitality after the funeral. Both of which are deeply appreciated. As there can be more than one funeral a week, we understand that supporters cannot get to all of them. However, if the list of supporters is long, then it follows that each funeral will have one or two parish supporters present.

By mid-June Fr John and Jane returned from their retreat, conference and holidays respectively, looking and feeling refreshed, ready to hit the ground running. Christine was very happy to see them back on deck! They were also glad to see the parish still standing – as they fully expected it to be!