

## NEW PARISH VISION EXPLANATORY MEETING

On

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

At

The Father Phelan Centre

**PRESENT:** Fr Victor Vella, Parish Co Responsibility Group (PCRG), namely Mike Delaney, Jackie Low, Aidan Twomey, and Andrea Tutt and a substantial cross-section of parishioners

After a welcome from Aidan Twomey, Father Victor led us in an opening prayer based on the first paragraph of *Lumen Gentium (Light of the Nations)*, the constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council. He then explained the roots of his vision, taken from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 60:1-3), the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:14, 16) and the book *The Cost of Discipleship*, written by the 20<sup>th</sup> century Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

However, he pointed out, a vision will remain a dream and not become a reality unless its progress is embedded in three words namely, *picture*, *future* and *passion*. A vision is therefore a picture of the future that evokes, brings forth and produces passion in us. Three essential tools are required to achieve the vision: (1) Primacy of the Holy Spirit; (2) Evangelisation; (3) Strong Leadership.

Aidan then asked us to spend time in small groups brainstorming and reflecting on what we mean by ‘A Parish on a hilltop.’ The groups then gave feedback on their deliberations. Each group had similar ideas, caring for the community, irrespective of creed and ethnicity, respecting and acknowledging individuals, speaking to those not known to each other.

The meeting concluded with Mike Delaney presenting the new vision statement, explaining how it had been settled on by the Parish Co-responsibility Group after much deliberation and prayer, inspired by Saint John Henry Newman’s words: “The Light, O Lord, will be all from you; none of it will be mine. It will be you shining on others through me.” This quote is the underlying basis of our parish vision statement, which it was felt should be short and memorable: “*Christ shining on others through us.*”

***With thanks to all participants and special thanks in particular to Sister Esther, Christina Joseph and helpers who provided refreshments.***

Parish co-responsibility group (PCRG) Left to right.....

Mike Delaney; Aidan Twomey, Andrea Tutt; Jackie Low, Father Victor Vella Parish Priest



Some photos of parishioners enjoying the evening & the delightful repast





