

HOLY TRINITY PARISH

*incorporating the Mass centres and communities of Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove, Point Lonsdale,
and Queenscliff*

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Notes from the Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council has continued to meet online each month during 2020. As you would expect, a regular monthly agenda item has been to consider the ever-changing COVID conditions governing religious gatherings and responding to these. The PPC has also been regularly updated on impacts related to our two parish schools. Thank you to the Principals and staff of the schools for their work during these months.

Thank you to parishioners who have been informing us of useful websites of readings, reflections and meditations that we have been able to include on the revamped Parish Website and in the Weekly Bulletin.

During this period of enforced parish “hibernation”, the PPC has reflected on the opportunity that will present itself when we open up to evaluate the status of our parish ministries, particularly those related to pastoral care and faith development. PPC looks forward to an opportunity in the future to meet with many of you to consider how our parish ministries might better serve the needs of parishioners.

In response to a submission from a parishioner last November, thanks to the leadership of Frank Nelson and some other Ocean Grove parishioners, PPC has been considering the construction of “The Holy Trinity Memorial Wall” in the Star of The Sea Church grounds. The PPC and the Parish Finance Committee now feel it appropriate to seek the broad feedback of the parish community on this proposal, and would like to use the month of November—the month of the Holy Souls, for this purpose. Parishioners who have been aware of the proposal have generally been supportive of the project.

The idea of a remembrance for loved ones in the Star of the Sea Church grounds is not new. Holy Trinity Parish received a letter of approval for such a project from the Archdiocese some years ago. It has now received approval for construction of a Memorial Wall from the City of Greater Geelong. The Church now permits cremations for Catholics, but the urn needs to contain all the ashes of the deceased.

Information already obtained indicates that, if it is to proceed, a Memorial Wall:

- Must be built by a commercial builder, and to an excellent standard. Three quotes received from local commercial builders suggest that, allowing for contingencies, the price of the construction would be in the order of \$35-45,000. Photos and sketches of the proposed wall are available on request. Email to Frank Nelson: franknk@bigpond.com
- The plans drawn up would provide for 240 niches for the ashes of the deceased in urns of a standard size.

The vision for a Memorial Wall enshrining the remembrance of loved ones is supported by the Parish Pastoral Council, but the council understands that it is an initiative being proposed against a backdrop of falling revenue within the parish and for many families. Hence, financing of the project would have to be underwritten by deposits in advance for a good number of the niches.

The price to parishioners of a niche is yet to be determined, but would be extremely competitive relative to typical cremation and burial costs. The cost of ashes being deposited in a garden at the Point Lonsdale cemetery is upwards of \$900. It has been suggested that the cost to parishioners per niche might be in the order of \$200 deposit and that the final cost of a niche might be in the vicinity of \$450-650. (Figures are provided as a guide only as detailed costings have not been completed.)

Please discuss this possible project with other parishioners. Please give us your views and suggestions during this month of November. Let us know if you have questions that need to be answered. Send an email or letter to the Parish Office. Give your thoughts to Fr Darien or a member of the Parish Pastoral Council or a member of the Parish Finance Committee.

Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council