



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Aberfoyle Park & Blackwood Parishes

MOVING TOWARDS ONE PARISH COMMUNITY

WHY IS THIS CHANGE HAPPENING?

There are several factors that contribute to our current situation, primarily the diminishing number of active clergy in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, and the smaller number of people attending Masses in parishes. More and more communities will be affected by these realities in the future. Combining Blackwood and Aberfoyle Park into one parish ensures that both communities will be supported pastorally and sacramentally.

WHAT IS MY ROLE IN IT? HOW CAN I BE PART OF THIS?

All members of the parish community are invited to participate during this time of change. As a parish community we must continue to focus on our mission. There will be opportunities for consultation and engagement along the way.

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF OUR SUNDAY WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY?

In the 2022 Mass Count (four weeks in May 2022)

Aberfoyle Park had on average 183 parishioners. 32 children up to 17 years. 29% aged over 70.

Blackwood had on average of 156 parishioners. 14 children up to 17 years. 54% aged over 70.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT WEEKEND MASS TIMES IN BOTH PARISHES?

Aberfoyle Park

6:00pm (Vigil) Nativity

9:00am Sunday Nativity

Blackwood

6:00pm (Vigil) Our Lady of the Way Church

8:00am St Paul of the Cross Church

10:00am Our Lady of the Way Church

There are varying times for weekday Masses across both communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY MASS TIME?

With only one priest allocated over what currently is 2 parishes, there will need to be some move towards reducing the number of parish Masses. The combined Parish Pastoral Councils will be given the responsibility to come up with draft recommendations to be considered by parishioners from both current parishes.

WILL THERE BE CHANGE IN PARISH NAMING?

After consultation with both communities and after taking into account the history, mission and charism of the two parishes, a decision will be made on the name with the aim to be one parish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS AND PARISH FINANCE COUNCILS?

It is expected that we will work towards one PPC and PFC for the new parish encompassing Aberfoyle Park and Blackwood.

The combined PPC configuration is aimed to be completed by October 2023.

The combined PFC configuration may take longer with legal, governance and canonical considerations to be taken into account.

Both locations of Aberfoyle Park and Blackwood will be included in this reconfiguration.

WHAT ABOUT PARISH FINANCES AND ASSETS?

Part of the consultation process will include looking at the benefits of combining the finances and assets for the new parish encompassing Aberfoyle Park and Blackwood to ensure the long-term sustainability of both communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH MY PARTICULAR PARISH ACTIVITY (E.G. VINNIES, PRAYER GROUP, YOUTH GROUP ETC)?

For the time being these activities should continue as normal. In the future there may be opportunities to reflect how these activities might work more effectively but there will be a strong emphasis on maintaining and supporting local community networks.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE?

Fr Dean Marin, Vicar General, along with members of the Pastoral Services Team will continue to provide pastoral support to both the Parish Priest and respective parish community. Other support will be available from the Archdiocesan Finance Liaison Area and Property and Assets Department.

Fr Dean Marin
Sarah Moffatt
Danielle Roocke
Kyla Daly

Vicar General
Director, Pastoral Life and Mission
Parish Finance Liaison
Property and Assets

vicargeneral@adelaide.catholic.org.au
smoffatt@adelaide.catholic.org.au
droocke@adelaide.catholic.org.au
kdaly@adelaide.catholic.org.au

WHAT ABOUT OUR PARISH SCHOOL?

Catholic schools are an important part of any parish community. The School of the Nativity is an important part of the Aberfoyle Park Parish and will remain so in the parish restructure. There is currently no school in the Blackwood Parish.

In consultation with the Parish Priest, Deacon and school community there will continue to be opportunities to celebrate liturgies with the school community.

WILL THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS BE AFFECTED?

Current sacramental preparation programs will continue as planned for 2023. Future programs will need to look at the needs and realities of the combined parish and those preparing for sacraments.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER SACRAMENTS: FUNERALS, MARRIAGES AND BAPTISM?

These continue as normal. The complementary nature of Priest and Deacon will be helpful in this regard.

I AM A VOLUNTEER IN THE PARISH, HOW WILL I BE AFFECTED?

Volunteers will always be needed and valued and there is a likelihood of the opportunity to expand their roles.

MY QUESTION IS NOT ANSWERED HERE?

If you have a particular question, please email **Sarah Moffatt** smoffatt@adelaide.catholic.org.au and she will get back to you as soon as possible.