

Proposal is to change the status of the provisional parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park to a parish

(A report of the Georges River Regional Council.)

Proposal

1. The purpose of this report is to propose that the Provisional Parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park be classified as the Parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park.

Recommendation

2. The Georges River Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park be classified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.

Support of the Georges River Regional Council

3. On 12 March 2019 the Georges River Regional Council resolved to support the request that the Provisional Parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park be classified as a parish under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.

Parish Information

4. The Parish of Fairfield has seen incredible changes over its lifetime. It has gone from an essentially semi-rural area to a bustling, urbanised melting pot of people from all over the world. Currently the parish has a population of 62,000 people. 3.9% identify as Anglican, 40.3% Catholic, 10.9% Orthodox, 10.5% Buddhist and 6.0% Islamic. 53% of people were born overseas and English is the language spoken at home in only 33% of households. There is a large percentage of refugees and asylum seekers, including around 7,000 of the Syrian refugees that came to NSW.
5. After the heights of church attendance through the 50's-70's, there was significant decline through the 80's and by the mid 90's struggled in terms of attendance and finances, and, therefore, became a Provisional Parish in 1996.
6. In the first decade of the 2000's, the church saw significant growth both in number and also the nationalities represented in the congregation. Sunday School and Youth Group re-started as the church began seeing young people again.
7. Around 2005-6, some capacity issues arose. At the same time, the Parish of Bossley Park had sadly declined to a point of unviability. This parish had a much bigger and newer building, and so the two parishes amalgamated and became the Parish of Fairfield with Bossley Park. Following amalgamation, the service at Bossley Park was closed down for a year. In 2007, the 10:30am service at Fairfield was able to relocate to the larger premises at Bossley Park. Since then, the parish has had ministries at both locations, as well as starting two other congregations at a third and fourth location over that time (though one had to re-locate back to the main site at Fairfield due to property issues, and the other had to close due to the landlord no longer willing to rent to a church group).
8. The Rev Stephen Shead became Rector of the parish in January 2019, following a vacancy since July 2015.
9. Currently the parish runs 4 services on a Sunday across its 2 sites.

Fairfield/Bossley Park Attendance and Activities

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|
| 2018 | 296 | 2014 | 371 | 2010 | 235 |
| 2017 | 307 | 2013 | 440* | 2009 | 221 |
| 2016 | 315 | 2012 | 339 | 2008 | 182 |
| 2015 | 297 | 2011 | 313 | 2007 | 148 |

* Quite possibly an error in the recorded figures in church's registry. Likely lower by 20 - 30.

10. The parish runs a Sunday School and Youth Group at both the Fairfield and Bossley Park sites, and a vibrant Seniors' Group at Fairfield. There is an extensive scripture teaching ministry in several primary and high schools. Growth groups are a core pillar of ministry strategy. There are various outreach activities (eg. Mobile Food Pantry).
11. The parish is very multicultural, so enjoys the richness of people from a variety of backgrounds, including the Middle East, Asia, Sub-Continent, South America, Africa, Mediterranean, Europe and the "West". Across the parish, there is no dominant cultural group, though there would be more people of Anglo background at the early morning Prayer Book service, and more people of an Asian background at the evening service.
12. The parish is committed to supporting gospel work overseas through link missionaries (including the current Rector when he served with CMS in Chile for 10 years). It is also heavily involved with the South West Evangelism and Training Conference (**SWEATCON**), which aims to train leaders for the churches in the south west of Sydney, and to encourage and facilitate gospel outreach and ministry in south west Sydney and beyond.

Summary of receipts and payments

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 (unaudited) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Receipts | | | |
| Offerories | \$ 462,028.55 | \$ 390,623.62 | \$ 510,480.28 |
| Rental income | \$ 60,816.00 | \$ 58,190.00 | \$ 48,215.85 |
| Other receipts (incl. grants & interest) | \$ 28,920.08 | \$ 15,253.98 | \$ 13,045.07 |
| Event Income | | \$ 23,022.73 | |
| Total Income | \$ 551,764.63 | \$ 487,090.33 | \$ 571,741.20 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Salaries/MEA/Super | \$ 208,927.44 | \$ 268,824.13 | \$ 354,072.40 |
| PCR | \$ 60,854.04 | \$ 69,486.45 | \$ 69,606.09 |
| Property / Maintenance | \$ 130,372.25 | \$ 76,821.32 | \$ 20,717.71 |
| Parish Admin | \$ 4,634.93 | \$ 7,462.31 | \$ 35,901.46 |
| Ministry Expenditure | \$ 5,068.81 | \$ 11,569.99 | \$ 14,144.13 |
| Ministry Donations | \$ 61,028.26 | \$ 64,924.21 | \$ 33,500.00 |
| Other (equip. prof. services, etc) | \$ 3,021.00 | \$ 40,376.55 | \$ 2,781.82 |
| Event Expense | | \$ 19,237.42 | |
| To be allocated | | | \$ 13,761.36 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 473,906.73 | \$ 558,702.38 | \$ 544,484.97 |
| Net Surplus | \$ 77,857.90 | -\$ 71,612.05 | \$ 27,256.23 |

Particulars of Church Property Held in Trust

Non-current Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Buildings - Church & Hall BP | 1,512,496 |
| Church St Barnabas Fairfield | 1,460,274 |
| Church St Davids Fairfield | 418,013 |
| Contents 21 Rawson Road | 1,514 |
| Contents BP Church & Hall | 77,334 |
| Contents BP Rectory | 3,137 |
| Contents Church - Fairfield | 79,714 |
| Contents Ministers' Residences | 1,947 |
| Contents St Davids | 33,746 |
| Garage St Barnabas Fairfield | 13,000 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Investment - Property Trust | 21,565 |
| Land - Bossley Park | 3,070,000 |
| Land 21 Rawson Road | 485,000 |
| Land St Barnabas | 3,140,000 |
| Land St Davids | 970,000 |
| Petty Cash Float | 100 |
| Rectory - Bossley Park | 794,985 |
| Rectory & car port - St Davids | 318,122 |
| Rectory St Barnabas Fairfield | 483,033 |
| St Barnabas Fairfield - Halls | 605,000 |
| St Barnabas Fairfield - Shed | 12,000 |
| St B'bas Fairfield Toilet Blk | 160,000 |
| St Davids - Hall | 220,000 |
| St Davids - Toilet Block | 20,000 |
| Total Non-current Assets | 13,900,980 |

Parish Status Criteria Met

13. During the previous financial year the local revenues of the ecclesiastical district were not less than the sum of the following amounts for that financial year –
 - (a) the minimum stipend for a minister recommended by the Standing Committee, and
 - (b) the fixed component of the travel allowance for a minister recommended by the Standing Committee
 - (c) the fixed component of the cost recoveries charge payable by a parish under the Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008, and
14. During the financial year before the date on which the proposal is received by the Standing Committee, or such part of that financial year as a member of the clergy was licensed as minister, the minister was –
 - (a) paid or provided with a stipend or benefits in lieu of stipend the amount or value of which, in total, was not less than that part of the minimum stipend referred to in clause 6(a)(i) which was required to be paid or provided to the minister, and
 - (b) paid or provided with a travel allowance or travel benefit not less than that part of the fixed component of the travel allowance referred to in clause 6(a)(ii) which was required to be paid or provided to the minister, and
 - (c) provided with a housing allowance and lives in accommodation and location approved by the Archbishop.
15. All costs recoveries charges (including any arrears) due and payable by the parish under the Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008 have been paid.
16. A building is or buildings are available in the ecclesiastical district for use by a congregation meeting for worship and other purposes.
17. Such residence and building or buildings are in good condition and state of repair, are suitable for the purposes to which they are to be put and the freehold thereof or a leasehold thereof is vested in Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney or in trustees in trust for the ecclesiastical district.
18. The ecclesiastical district is able to service all its debts.
19. The ecclesiastical district is in a sound financial condition.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council.

PETER LIN
Bishop of Georges River

21 May 2019