



# St Ignatius Parish

*An Ignatian Catholic Faith Community carrying out the Mission of Christ*

**This paper will help introduce our parish to the archdiocese. Your thoughts and feedback are important. You might like to tick statements you agree with, or mark where you feel something needs to be reconsidered. Perhaps you would also like to write more on an attached piece of paper or in email form.**

## Vision

We hold a vision of our parish as an inclusive, welcoming community that preserves the teachings of St Ignatius and encourages each of us to grow in Christ.

This means we seek:

- A priest who communicates well, enables and encourages parishioners to grow, and who respects the tradition of the parish community.
- To engage with other churches and the wider local community, but maintain our identity and parish communities.
- To empower our members and encourage them to share their gifts and stories.
- To facilitate the transition from child to adult by offering real worshipping experiences. We have a particular emphasis on engaging youth through a family-friendly liturgical outreach.
- To welcome the stranger and those who have severed their relationship with the community, church and Christ.
- To preserve Ignatian teachings of a relationship with Jesus on a personal level, by maintaining our partnership with the *Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality* and encouraging the prayer life of individuals.
- To be compassionate, reach out to the marginalized, work for reconciliation and for responsible stewardship of the earth, and to walk with the poor.

## Strengths

We are rich with respect to people, infrastructure and Ignatian spirituality. We are strengthened by the motivation and industry of our fellow parishioners expressed through many volunteer groups. We enjoy the distinct characters of two churches with diverse Masses presenting a constellation of faith.

We are grateful for:

- Our links to the *Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality* along with the spiritual identity and theology of the Ignatian tradition. We see this as representing 'treasure beyond measure'.
- The legacy of 101 years of Jesuit priests who have left us prepared for the future, with a strong lay ministry.
- The individuality of each Mass, underpinned and connected by the strengths of the parish: music ministry, children's participation, broader participation and the offering of friendship and hospitality.

- The Auchenflower community with its younger demographic, willing and able to move forward; and the Toowong community, steeped in a rich history of parish storytelling.
- The dedicated family Mass and children's liturgy at Auchenflower.
- The way we enrich, and are enriched by, members from outside our geographical boundaries.
- A superb director of music accompanied by a team of young musicians and volunteer choristers. The singing is what attracts many people from outside the parish.
- *St Ignatius Primary School*, which plays a vital role in connecting children and their parents to the Church. Our outreach extends beyond two church communities, the *Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality* and *St Ignatius Primary School* to embrace *Stuartholme School*, local state schools and the *Wesley Hospital*.
- Strong social justice outreach including support for refugees and Indigenous people as well as support for parishioners in need.

## Challenges

We grieve the loss of the Jesuits and must work to move forward. We have an embarrassment of riches with respect to people and infrastructure and both these endowments need to be treasured, maintained and developed.

The work ahead includes:

- The transition as *St Faber's Green* is built at Auchenflower. How can we help to fulfil the needs of the elderly and manage and sustain a triangular relationship with *Greengate*?
- The roofs and general maintenance of the churches.
- An upgrade of our computer and banking systems so they are compatible with Archdiocesan requirements.
- Being better prepared and organized without becoming bureaucratic and suffocating individual and group initiatives.
- Coping with the demands and needs of a fluctuating population and more multicultural demography.
- Creating cohesion and a sense of community between autonomous groups and the four Mass communities. Providing regular information channels and the opportunity to meet.
- Building structures and a path that draws young, enthusiastic people to our community.
- Reaching out to parishioners and others within our geographical area who have been hurt by the church or its agencies.
- Finding ways to share the benefits of Jesuit vision with a new priest and new parishioners.
- Countering the loss of the Jesuits; reassuring those who were attracted by the Jesuit charism and those who may resist their departure. We will have to accept that we lose some of our communal independence in the transition from the Jesuits to the Archdiocese.
- Adjusting to a different environment and establishing wider networks with the local community and other Christian communities particularly in the area of youth ministry.
- The prospect of fewer clergy, forcing changes to sacramental services but also greater opportunities for involvement and responsibility on the part of the laity.

