

The only thing that counts is faith working through love. (Galatians 5:6)

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5th Jul 2026





A Thriving Parish Life

A fruitful parish life is the vibrant heartbeat of a local faith community, serving as a spiritual family and a hub for outreach. It connects neighbours through shared worship, sacramental life, charitable support, and social fellowship, transforming a localised area into an active, welcoming network. A thriving parish community encompasses several key aspects of day-to-day involvement:

A healthy body is made up of a number of different systems, the skeletal, the muscular, respiratory, etc. When one of the systems in our body fails to function correctly, it affects the health of the whole body. We become sick, and our entire body feels it. This is also true of parishes. Similarly, for a healthy parish life we may identify five interdependent systems: worship, evangelisation, discipleship, fellowship and service. The malfunctioning of any of the systems makes the whole parish 'sick', A health check for the parish will show where we stand.

1. Worship

"…And they devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42b) Celebration of the Eucharist must be the moving and transformative experience that brings people into an intimate encounter with Jesus and with the community around them. As Catholics, our main act of worship is the Sunday Eucharist. Parishes can greatly improve the quality of their worship by paying attention to:

Parish Priest:
Fr. Joby George VC

Priest-In Residence:
Fr Sebastian
Mappilaparambil VC

Parish secretary:
Caroline Allen

Parish Manager:
Gerard Antony

Principal:
Paul Sharp

Child Safety Officer:
Florida Nugara

Catechist:
Christina D'Couto

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil …. 6.30pm
Sunday…..... 9.15am
…… 11.00am
Healing Mass …. 7.00pm

Spanish Mass:
Saturday 4.00pm

Weekday Masses:
Monday to Saturday 9.15am
Wednesday 7.00pm

Reconciliation:
Tuesday 9.45am - 10.15am
Saturday 9.45am - 10.15am

Novena to Our Lady:
Saturday 9.00am
Wednesday 7.00pm

Baptisms: Second Sunday

Divine Kids Bible Class:
Sunday 10.15am

Parish Prayer Group:
Tuesday 7.00pm-8.00pm

Parish Halls Hire:
Contact Parish Office

• **Hospitality**. As people arrive, ensure a warm welcome: smiling faces, and a clean bathroom. Make sure everyone has what they need to participate: words for hymns and responses, etc.

• **Hymns**. Provide the best music your parish can afford, aiming at participation, not performance. Offer music in a style, key and volume that invites the congregation to open their mouths and sing. It also greatly aids prayerful worship when at least one hymn is addressed directly to God, as a prayer.

• **Homilies**. In *Evangelii Gaudium* (n.135), Pope Francis remarks that both the laity and their ordained ministers suffer because of homilies: the laity from having to listen to them, and the clergy from having to preach them. The homily is there to feed and nurture the 'flock' and benefits from careful attention to style and kerygmatic content.

2. Evangelisation

"And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47)

The proclamation of the kerygma must bring adults into a personal relationship with Jesus. A clear sign of a healthy parish is that new adult Christians are being 'born'. In *Evangelii Gaudium* (n.163), Pope Francis describes the content of kerygma as "Jesus Christ loves you, he gave his life to save you and now he is living by your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you."

3. Fellowship

"They devoted themselves … to fellowship … All who believed were together and had all things in common." (Acts 2:42, 44)

Healthy parishes are like a family and have a strong, welcoming community life. Many parishes are socially active, with sports clubs, dancing, barbecues, concerts and the like. Fellowship may include socialising but cannot be reduced to them. It occurs in a community formed around the Gospel, and its purpose is to love and support each other on the Christian journey to holiness.

CHILD SAFETY

Holy Family Parish is committed to upholding the wellbeing, safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

READINGS

SUNDAY
Zechariah 9:9-10
Psalm 145):1-2,8-11,13b-14
Romans 8:9,11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

MONDAY
Hosea 2:16,17-18,21-22
Psalm 145:2-9
Matthew 9:18-26

TUESDAY
Hosea 8:4-7,11-13
Psalm 115:3-10
Matthew 9:32-37

WEDNESDAY
Hosea 10:1-3,7-8,12
Psalm 105:2-7
Matthew 10:1-7

THURSDAY
Hosea 11:1-4,8-9
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16
Matthew 10:7-15

FRIDAY
Hosea 14:2-10
Psalm 51:3-4,8-9,12-14,17
Matthew 10:16-23

SATURDAY
Saint Benedict, Abbot
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 93:1-2,5
Matthew 10:24-33

Ask yourself: Is everyone in your parish known by name, loved and cared for? Does fellowship only extend to certain kinds of people? Are people with disabilities or different ethnicities or different socioeconomic situations somehow implicitly excluded?

4. Discipleship

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42) The followers of Jesus are to be supported in a lifelong process of growing in their loving and serving of God? Discipleship is about nurturing people who already love Jesus and who want more. Discipleship includes catechesis but cannot be reduced to it. Research tells us that the majority of baptised Catholics are not disciples; they have been given the sacraments but not evangelised. Parishes that nurture discipleship expect that conversion is a lifelong journey of ever-deepening relationship with Jesus. The parish can assist disciples by supporting their growth in faith, knowledge and prayer through catechesis, Scripture study and so on.

5. Service

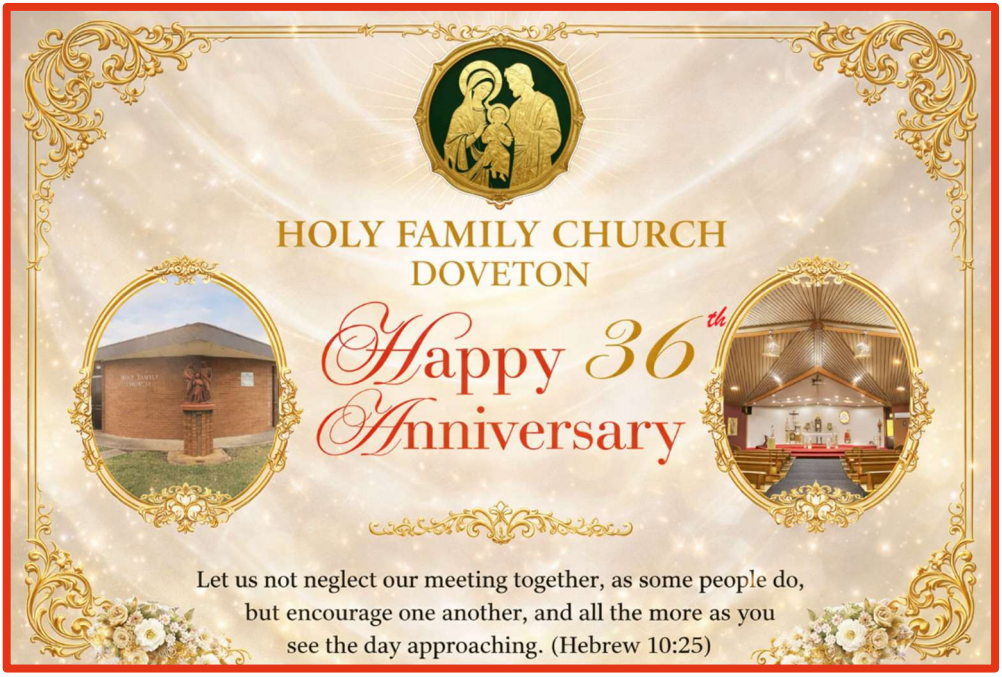
"All who believed were together and had all things in common. They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." (Acts 2:44–45)

- Does your parish support people to discern their God-given gifts, and then call them to service in areas into which they are being called? Or does our parish look to fill 'gaps' with anyone who is prepared to do the job?
- Are most of our parish ministries and services focused internally (for example, lectors, special ministers, children's liturgy, altar servers and other rostered opportunities to serve)? Or does the parish have a substantial focus on service and care beyond the people of the parish?
- Is the main role of the parish priest and staff to 'serve' those coming to the parish in need of help and support? Or is the main focus to grow and equip disciples who go out to evangelise and serve?

Testing on the above framework as our parish strategy we can analyse the overall health of the parish and start developing the parish-renewal strategy.

God bless us all ***Fr. Sebastian Mappilaparambil VC***





Parish Office Opening Hours Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm	Presbytery T: (03) 97924317 | School T: (03) 97911853 Parish W: holyfamilydoveton.org.au Parish E: doveton@cam.org.au Parish Manager E: hfparishmanager@gmail.com Child Safety E: holyfamilycso@cam.org.au