



Joint Communication from the Holy Spirit Parish, Parish of St Gerard and St Anne

Looking to the Future – Parish Consultation 2025

Dear Parishioners,

Over the past twenty years, the people of the parishes of Holy Spirit, St Gerard and St Anne have walked alongside each other in a spirit of friendship, cooperation, and shared faith. Together we have celebrated sacraments, supported our schools, cared for those in need, and journeyed through the joys and challenges of being Church in today's world,

Why Are We Consulting Now?

Further to previous communication regarding the "Take the Way of the Gospel" strategy, our communities are being invited by the Archdiocese to now consider how our partnership might be strengthened for the years ahead — not simply to maintain what we have, but to explore how we can be even more vibrant, sustainable, and mission-focused.

This is not a decision to be made by a small few; the future of our partnership is to be shaped by the voice, hopes and vision of each one of you.

A Continuum of Possibilities

It is important to stress that there is no fixed plan already decided. Instead, we have before us a *continuum* of potential models for the future, stretching from:

- "Light-touch" administrative cooperation (sharing certain resources while each community retains its identity), through to
- A fully integrated new parish (with a new name, possibly a new church and unified structures).

And there are many variations in between.

At this early stage, we are not being asked to vote on structures, but rather to commit to an *amalgamation of intention and purpose* — to focus on our shared mission and values, and from that foundation build the model that will best serve our communities.

As we commence a process of consultation, we extend an open invitation to all parishioners to interact and get to know each other. This might include attending Mass at one of the other churches or attending one of the social activities such as morning tea. The respective Parish Councils extend a warm invitation to you, and we will be promoting these via our respective newsletters.

Consultation Framework – The Next Few Months

Over the coming months, we will follow a three-step process:

1. Listening & Sharing (September – October)

Opportunities for open parish forums, small group meetings, and feedback. We want to hear:

- What do you value most about your community?

- What has worked well in our partnership so far?
- Where could we work more closely?
- What are your hopes for the future?

2. Exploring Models (October – November)

Drawing on what parishioners have shared; we will explore possible models along the continuum — from minimal changes through to greater integration. These will be assessed in light of:

- Our mission priorities (pastoral and liturgical)
- Practical sustainability (people, resources, finances)
- Opportunities for greater outreach and growth

3. Discernment & Recommendation (November – December)

The outcomes of the consultation will be shared with the whole community. Together, we will seek consensus on the preferred direction to present to the Archdiocese.

We ask each parishioner to:

- Take part in at least one consultation activity
- Reflect and Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Approach discussions with open hearts and minds, respecting the past but embracing future opportunities.

A Word of Encouragement

Our faith tells us that God is always doing something new, even when we feel uncertain. In the Acts of the Apostles, the early Church grew when communities prayed, listened, and worked together with courage and love.

Let us be guided by the same Spirit as we navigate these important conversations — confident that the Lord who has blessed our past will also bless our future.

Yours faithfully

Fr Arsenio Tuazon

Parish Priest

Andrew Conway

Chair, Parish Pastoral Council Holy Spirit

Chris Harris

Chair, Parish Pastoral Council St Gerard & St Anne