

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council 2024

Father Joseph

Parish Priest (Ex- Officio)

Deacon Trevor

Permanent Deacon (Ex- Officio)

Jennifer Dass – Chairperson



Born in Mumbai, India, I moved to Dubai with my parents when I was a toddler and lived 27 wonderful years in Dubai. My husband Suraj and I migrated to Perth in July 2011 and we are blessed with two sweet and cheeky kids Karina and Jayden.

I live my professional and social life underpinned by values of Respect, Honesty, Humility, Courage, Initiative and Teamwork.

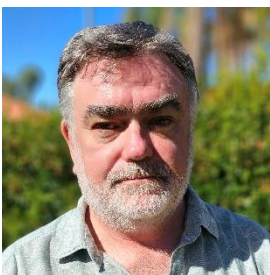
I am humbled by the nomination to the role of Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council representing the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi, Maida Vale since March 2024. It will be big shoes to fill and is an honour and privilege to serve our wonderful parishioners.

I have been with our Parish for 11+ years. My earliest involvement with our Parish was as part of the social committee organising Feast Day celebrations, Christmas and other social events. I read and commentate at the 8am mass on Sundays and as required over Christmas, Easter and other occasional masses. The friendships I have developed over my 11+ years in the Parish with fellow parishioners, whether through parish activities and/or by just getting to know the people I attend mass with, has been very enriching and a great source of support (coupled with fun times and good humour).

As a Parish member, I have gained a better understanding of how our Parish operates and recognise the important role everyone plays in ensuring our Parish is an inclusive, welcoming, respectful and dynamic environment for all current and new parishioners.

I value and respect the diversity in our Parish and every Parishioners' contributions. As the newly appointed Parish Council Chair I am excited to build on and find opportunities to work cohesively to further enhance the profile and excellent work of our Parish.

Michael Bell - Vice-Chairperson



I grew up in High Wycombe, moved away and then somehow came back again with my wife and family. Maria and I have been part of the St Francis' parish for twenty years or so.

I have worked as an environmental scientist for government, industry and as a consultant for a long time. Lately I have made a career pivot into well-being and pastoral care chaplaincy, working in hospitals and aged-care. I am passionate about how God in Jesus is reconciling the world to himself. I am fascinated by learning what this means for real people in their real lives. I ride a red Moto Guzzi.

I quietly note that the Dockers are the only team who cover all the liturgical colours.

Adrian D'Cruz - PPC Secretary (Non-Voting)



The Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Maida Vale is my spiritual home. It rocks my world and blows my mind. In its peaceful and idyllic surroundings, I find the joy and serenity of our Patron Saints love of nature and the calming tranquillity of Gods constant reassuring presence. I only desire Heaven and the eternal salvation of my immortal soul. Truly, absolutely nothing else matters to me.

My sister and I have been Parishioners of this Parish for 50 years. The same age as our Church building. I received the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the age of 7 in 1974 and was sealed with gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation a few years later and this will be my final resting place. Our parents and grandparents have worked, lived and died in this Parish. They taught us our faith. There is only One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. It is your passport to touch the face of God. They inscribed in our hearts the awesome imprint of the providential hand of God in our everyday challenges. The power of the Holy Rosary. In trials and in hope, through tears and laughter, in good and in bad. You cannot survive without Him. Through every struggle, celebration and loss, I always come home to the unfathomable compassion of God's merciful forgiveness. I come to the Tabernacle and I put everything on His shoulders with total trust. He always sorts it out and never leaves me abandoned. Eucharistic Adoration is the explosive Real Presence. Hopefully one day we will enjoy a greater manifestation of this with a little Adoration Chapel of our own.

This grace sanctified in the furnace of redemptive suffering is what ignites and powers me. I choose to empty myself completely and unconditionally in all I do. I have fallen head over heels in love with Jesus. He is my best friend. He is the love of my life. The extraordinary blessing to be able to walk the path to Calvary with my Saviour in the daily living experience of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a privilege I desperately want every Parishioner to understand and appreciate. Holy Mass is Heaven on earth. Every treasure and teaching of the history of the Catholic Church underpins this glorious indisputable fact.

In all my volunteer activities in this Parish; in the many beautiful devotions, the enriching ministries, service to the Priesthood, proclaiming the Word, the Holy Masses, Vincentian charitable works; I seek a single solitary outcome. I want everybody to ascend to Heaven. The spotless victory of Sainthood. By virtue of the waters of Baptism we are given the gift of eternal life through Christs personal imprimatur. His promise to us. Our lives must therefore be a salute to the Cross. There can be no excuses only sacrifices. We must lift each other up and reward our fellow brothers and sisters with the company of all the Angels and Our Blessed Mother. JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!!

Emmy Stephen - Parish Pastoral Councillor



To most Parishioners I am Emmy. To young children who went through catechism I am Mrs Stephen. I arrived in this beautiful country of milk and honey in 1981. I am blessed with two beautiful children and two adorable grandchildren.

In the same year I joined the church and became a catechist and to this day the longest serving Catechist. I serve in six different Ministries but catechism is closest to my heart. I have been blessed with Education and skills to help young children develop their potential.

My goal is to help provide our Parish children with safe, loving Catholic faith atmosphere in which to help with their religious formation. My role is to nurture a living, conscious and active faith in them. I would like them to develop a clear understanding of Jesus presence in their lives and most especially in the HOLY EUCHARIST.

This is my 5th year serving as a Councillor in the Parish Council. I am a good team player and serve with honesty and Integrity.

Robert Walker - Parish Pastoral Councillor



My name is Robert Walker and I have been with Saint Francis of Assisi as a Parishioners for 40 years. Now, that I am retired I take part in parish activities which is enjoyable and fulfilling.

Kathleen Smith - Parish Pastoral Councillor

Age 77yrs.



I was married to Roy (deceased) for 53 years. I have two daughters Barbara (married to Martin) and Amanda.

I have been in the parish for around 25 years and have served in many areas, example: Parish Secretary for 4-1/2 years, RCIA catechist with Roy for 6 years, been involved in hospitality / morning teas / catering for function / fund raising events for many years.

I am in my second year on the Parish Council, which I joined to find some way to serve the Lord and the parish. What I see for the parish is a need for connection. A way to be aware of the needs of our parishioners. Somewhere to be safe and to be able to share who we are with trust.

Anthony Fernandes - Parish Pastoral Councillor



Originally from a small town in Goa (India), I have called Perth home for the past 17 years. Myself and my most loving and beautiful wife, Joela, have two children and are active members of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish. I hold a Master's degree in Business Administration and work as a Senior Operations Manager.

My interests include spending all my free time with my growing boys and gardening. Having been involved with the Parish for over four years now, I have contributed towards the parish centre fundraising in the past one year. I joined the Parish Pastoral Council to help foster a stronger community and see opportunities for enhancing engagement and support for all parishioners.

Edwin Tjandra - Parish Pastoral Councillor



I finished my high school in Jakarta and came to Perth in 2004 for my undergraduate. I went to Stockholm for my Master and came back to University of Western Australia for my PhD in Biochemistry. I have been working as a farmer, laboratory consultant and customer service.

I and my wife had four sons. Our second son went to heaven in 2019. I came to SFoA in 2019 and became a catechist. Then, I joined PPC in 2021 and the Acolyte Ministry in 2022. SFoA is a very warm and welcoming parish and one of few parishes that have daily Mass. I wish more parishioners could take advantage of this blessing.

Dredd Semblante - Parish Pastoral Councillor



My parents and I moved to Perth back in 2012 and have been parishioners since then. I currently work as a nurse at a local hospital but previously I was the youth coordinator for our Parish youth group. Moving forward, I want to continue helping and guiding the youth of our Parish to get closer to our Lord and to truly feel His Presence among us.

I will serve you, the parishioners of St Francis of Assisi, by ensuring that each of you have a voice deserving to be heard as well as ensuring our youth stays in the faith. I am very honoured to be a Parish Pastoral Council member and will use this position for the betterment of our Parish and its' parishioners."

Dianne Cook - Parish Pastoral Councillor



What I do: Retired, Voluntary work, Farm caretaker.

Accomplishments:

16 years as an Education Assistant working with children with disabilities.

15 years as a Boarding Supervisor/Housemother at St Brigid's College Lesmurdie.

Personal fact:

Married to Vernon for 55 years.

4 children.

14 grandchildren.

2 great grandchildren.

Paolo Jabonero - Parish Pastoral Councillor



I have been a member of St. Francis Parish since 2006, having started attending as a child with my family. While Catholicism was ingrained in the culture of my hometown in Cebu, Philippines, I initially viewed it as commonplace. However, I now realise how mistaken I was.

My journey with faith has been transformative. Growing up, I drifted away from Christianity and attended church primarily for my mother's sake. I lacked understanding and genuine interest in the teachings of Christ.

Everything changed in 2020 when I delved into the Holy Bible and immersed myself in the study of God's Word. It was a profound awakening for me.

Today, I am passionate about serving the Church and fulfilling God's purpose for my life. I eagerly anticipate being led by the Spirit to contribute to the body of Christ in any way possible.

My aspiration is to deepen my knowledge of Scripture and engage in theological discourse to strengthen my faith and that of others. I am keen on exploring both the affirmations and challenges to Christianity to establish a firm foundation rooted in God's love.

Furthermore, I feel called to share the beauty of Christ with younger generations through teaching apologetics. My desire is to demonstrate the reality, compassion, and splendour of Jesus Christ, inspiring others to embrace His love wholeheartedly.

In all things, I trust in the guidance of the Lord and remain open to His will for my life.