



Archbishop John Bathersby has frequently expressed ecumenism as one of the three major issues of his episcopate.

With that in mind, the *Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations* has developed the strategies contained in this brochure to assist parishes as they implement the nine Archdiocesan priorities. It has been designed to assist with pastoral planning by encouraging the development of an ecumenical perspective.

Where possible, a list of parishes have been included in *italics* to indicate that they have used similar strategies in the past couple of years. The list provided is not exhaustive and should be seen as a stimulus for the creation of your own ecumenical initiatives.

The *Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations* is committed to assisting Catholic parishes in making ecumenism an integral aspect of the life and work of the Church community. If you would like to discuss any strategies included in this brochure, or would like to share with us some of your own 'good news' stories, please contact us.

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*Not just doing
Ecumenical
Things.....*



*But doing Things
Ecumenically*

*An Initiative of the Commission for Ecumenism
and Inter-religious Relations,
Archdiocese of Brisbane*

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NINE PRIORITIES OF THE SYNOD ECUMENICALLY



CATHOLICS EMBRACE THE PERSON AND VISION OF JESUS CHRIST

- Hold faith sharing and/or education in small ecumenical groups eg Lenten Programs (*Upper Mt Gravatt, Herston/Ashgrove/Newmarket, Oxenford*)
- Create a Christian presence in the community through Passion Sunday Marches, Peace Marches, Stations of the Cross from church to church. (*Ipswich, Redlands, Petrie/Bray Park.*)
- Establish a prayer space / information centre in the local shopping centre with other Christian Churches. (*Capalaba*)
- Hold ecumenical Australia Day Prayer Service and picnic/sausage sizzle at local community venue (*Woodford/Stanley Rivers*) or similar public prayer and witness.



LITURGY BECOMES MORE VIBRANT, MEANINGFUL AND INCLUSIVE.

- Pray for each of the local Christian (or other faith) communities at Mass each Sunday on a rotational basis. Name the community.
- Commit to holding an ecumenical (non-eucharistic) prayer service in your area 4 or 5 times a year. Rotate around churches and concentrate on vibrant liturgy in the tradition of the host church.
- Join with a nearby Christian church to hold a Good Friday liturgy and/or the lighting of Easter fire before Vigil (*Manly, Grovely, Capalaba*)
- Ensure that a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service takes place in your area each year. (*Wavell Heights, Victoria Point, Upper Mt Gravatt*)



PARISHES ARE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

- Promote church services of all Christian traditions via State Schools RE classes and invite SSRE Teachers to a prayer service and morning tea

- Organise a Family BBQ day or a film night and invite other Christian communities, to foster closer relations (*Coolangatta/Tugun*)
- Organise a joint training across all local churches for hospitality and welcoming ministry: share wisdoms.
- Invite the use of church buildings by other Christian Churches when the need arises. (*Caloundra/Bokarina, Burleigh Heads*)



CHRISTIAN MISSION IN DAILY LIFE

- Explore how other local Christian Churches envisage Christian Mission in daily life.
- Invite an Anglican, Uniting or Lutheran minister to speak on Christian Mission in daily life.
- Pray for and with other local Churches to establish a link in daily mission



YOUNG PEOPLE

- Share a youth worker or campus minister across Christian communities.
- Run the *Church as Communion* group discussion program with young people from your Parish and local Anglican, Uniting or Lutheran group.
- Create a team to organize and run the annual *Kids Games* in the local area. (*Upper Mount Gravatt*)
- Consider the possibility of building an ecumenical school when a new school is needed in your area. (*Gaven, Jimboomba, Caloundra*)



PASTORAL LEADERSHIP IS PROMOTED

- Ask a lay leader from another Christian Church to speak in your Parish about his/her concept and experience of lay pastoral leadership .
- Think “area” when brainstorming and planning instead of just “parish” and ask: “What can we do together with local Churches of other traditions?”
- Consider whether we can work together with another Christian Church on some practical project. Think cooperation/collaboration.



COMMUNICATION OF THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

- Prepare and distribute joint leaflets with other Christian Churches in your area with service times for Easter and Christmas and/or advertise these in local newspapers. (*Ashgrove/Herston/Newmarket*)
- Publish a monthly article/letter/ad in local paper on what Churches are doing together.
- Run a monthly stall in local shopping centre to jointly promote local Churches and what they are doing together.
- Start a local ecumenical group focussing on communicating the person and message of Jesus to your local community in some practical way.



SMALL GROUPS.

- Form small groups to nurture spirituality. Establish and train leadership across Christian communities
- Invite someone successful in small group leadership to share with your parish and other local Christian communities about their experiences of small groups.
- Hold ecumenical scripture-based share groups at special times throughout the year eg. leading up to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



SOCIAL JUSTICE/ SOCIAL WELFARE

- Find a project which answers a local need and work together across Christian communities (*Nambour*)
- Encourage already established groups (eg St Vincent de Paul, Care and Concern) to network and work together with similar groups in other Churches..
- Combine local Churches/ local Parish Social Justice groups to take on a project e.g. refugees, caravan park dwellers. (*Kenmore, Mt Gravatt/Upper Mt Gravatt/Wishart*)
- Organize an ecumenical and interfaith prayer rally for peace. (*Beenleigh, Nerang*)