



JOINT PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

2026-2030

St Joseph's Parish, Korumburra

St Laurence O'Toole Parish, Leongatha

"Nothing will be impossible with God."

LUKE 1:37

Our Parish Profile

Two distinct parishes, jointly administered

St Joseph's Parish, Korumburra, and St Laurence O'Toole Parish, Leongatha, are distinct Parishes jointly administered and share pastoral leadership, planning and mission.

St Laurence O'Toole Parish also serves the Catholic communities of St Kevin's Meeniyan; St Joseph's Mirboo North; and the Catholic Community in Tarwin Lower. Together, we seek to strengthen parish life across South Gippsland while respecting the identity, history and gifts of each local community.

We belong to the *Catholic Diocese of Sale* which provides a shared Pastoral Mission that guides this plan.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH, KORUMBURRA

Korumburra and surrounding district



ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE PARISH, LEONGATHA

Leongatha, Meeniyan, Mirboo North, Tarwin Lower, and surrounding district



COMMUNITIES OF MISSION

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- St Joseph's Primary School, Korumburra.
- St Laurence O'Toole Primary School, Leongatha.
- Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Leongatha.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

Josephite Companions live the charism of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods in their daily lives in a unique way. They support one another by friendship, prayer and service to make a difference in local areas and so further the reign of God.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The local St Vincent de Paul Society branches in Leongatha and Korumburra are important partners in practical service, social justice and care for people experiencing need in our locality.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Catholic Women's League brings women together in prayer, charity, loyalty, and action, focusing on the dignity of the human person, family values, and social justice.

CONTACT & PARISH OFFICE

JOINT PARISH OFFICE

Parish Priest: Rev. Stanly Devasia

Parish Secretary: Mrs Ann Hemming
Operating Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
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ONLINE

<https://www.catholicparish.app/korumburra>
<https://www.catholicparish.app/leongatha>

Current Mass times, church locations and parish news are published online and in the weekly bulletin.

SAFEGUARDING - We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Our parishes uphold safeguarding as a fundamental pastoral value rooted directly in the Gospels.

CHRIST-CENTRED | SYNODAL | MISSION-DRIVEN

Our Vision

*We are a Catholic parish, gathering to worship God and to grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our life and mission reflect the Church's 'three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity.'*¹ *In all that we do, we seek to 'strive ever to proclaim the Gospel to all people.'*² *Nourished by the Eucharist, Scripture and prayer, we seek to make Christ present among us and to reach out to the communities of Korumburra, Leongatha and surrounding districts with his message of love, forgiveness, justice and hope for all.*

The purpose of the Pastoral Council

The Joint Parish Pastoral Council serves the life and mission of our parishes through prayerful listening, discernment and shared responsibility. Grounded in *the love of God and neighbour*, the Council works together with the Parish Priest, representing the whole parish community, in growing and nurturing a Christ-centred, synodal and missionary Church in our locality.

Walking with the Diocese of Sale

Led by the Holy Spirit the people of the Diocese of Sale are committed to walking together to nurture a Christ-centred, synodal and mission-driven future.³ The following six diocesan priorities give our shared direction; this parish plan identifies the practical responses to these priorities in our local communities.

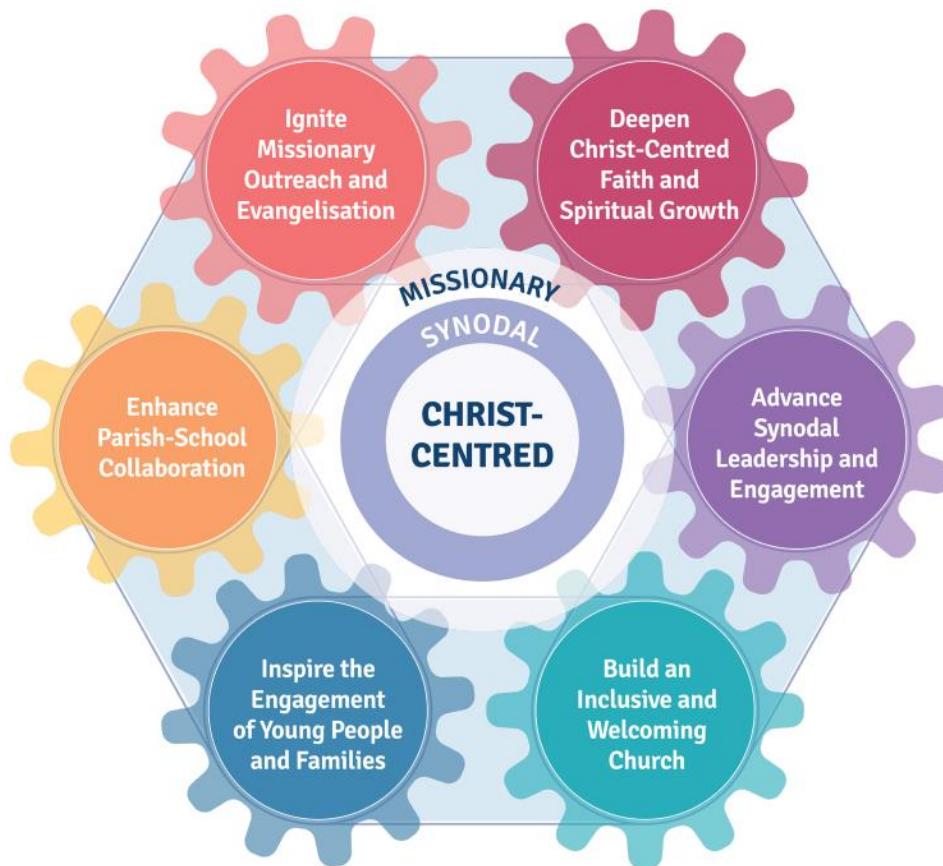
¹ Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* (2005), no. 25

² Second Vatican Council, *Ad Gentes: Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church* (1965)

³ Catholic Diocese of Sale, *Diocesan Pastoral Plan Framework 2026–2030*, p. 10.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN FRAMEWORK

2026-2030



A LIVING, FLOWING PLAN - This booklet sets the direction for 2026-2030. An annual action register will identify who will lead each action, when it will occur, the resources required and how progress will be reported.

AT THE HEART OF PARISH LIFE**Message from the Parish Priest**

At the heart of every parish is Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist shared and the Word proclaimed. As we look to the future through this Parish Pastoral Plan, we begin not with, action plans or strategies, but with the Lord who gathers, nourishes and sends us. The Eucharistic celebration is not simply one activity among many in parish life; it is the 'source and summit'⁴ of the Church's life and mission. Indeed, it is the Eucharist that makes us the Church.

When we gather around the altar, we encounter Christ who offers himself for the life of the world and draws us into communion with God and with one another. From this sacred encounter flow our identity, our mission and our call to discipleship. Every aspect of parish life must therefore be centred on the Eucharist, for it is there that we receive the grace and strength to become the people God calls us to be.

The Church through her lived experience reminds us:

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi

*The law of prayer is the law of faith, and the law of faith is the law of life.*⁵

How we pray shapes what we believe, and what we believe shapes how we live.

If we desire to grow in faith, deepen our discipleship and renew our parish community, we must first learn to pray and worship well. Reverent, joyful and faithful participation in the Eucharist forms our hearts according to the heart of Christ and sends us forth to live the Gospel in our homes, workplaces and wider community.

May this Parish Pastoral Plan always lead us back to the Eucharistic Lord, who remains the centre of our parish life and the source of all renewal. In Him we find our purpose, our unity, and our hope for the future. For His promise to us is that "*where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them*" (Matthew 18:20, NRSV).

Fr Stanly Devasia, PP

⁴ 'Source and summit': cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 11; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, p1324.

⁵ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd ed. p1124

SIX PRIORITIES | ONE INTEGRATED MISSION

The Plan at a Glance

The priorities are distinct, but each depends upon the others and all are centred on Christ.

01 - Deepen Christ-Centred Faith and Spiritual Growth

Strengthen spiritual life through prayer, liturgy and faith formation.

02 - Advance Synodal Leadership and Engagement

Promote shared leadership, listening and co-responsibility within the parish

03 - Build an Inclusive and Welcoming Church

Create a compassionate community of welcome, inclusion, reconciliation and support - Safeguarding the dignity of everyone.

04 - Inspire the Engagement of Young People and Families

Enable young people and families to belong and participate within the Parish's life and the Church's mission.

05 - Enhance Parish-School Collaboration

Strengthen partnerships between parishes and Catholic schools as united faith communities.

06 - Ignite Missionary Outreach and Evangelisation

Live as missionary disciples through local outreach, joyful witness, justice and care for the creation.

HOW TO READ THE NEXT PAGES - Each priority names our parish goals, recognises our strengths, groups the action plan into related pathways and identifies the evidence that will show progress.

DIOCESAN PRIORITY 1

Deepen Christ-Centred Faith and Spiritual Growth

OUR PARISH GOAL - Ensure that the focal point of our pastoral planning is personal and communal growth and understanding in spirituality and faith. This priority enables everyone to grow into being more Christ-centered. Therefore, *this priority is the nucleus; everything flows out of it, and everything must lead into it.*

STRENGTHS - Relevant homilies; uplifting hymns and prayers that encourage participation; greeters with a welcoming spirit; parishioner involvement in planning and leading liturgies; and a variety of prayer and spiritual growth groups in Leongatha.

ACTIONS	EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS
1 WORSHIP AND LITURGY 1.1 A choir sings at parish Masses once each month. 1.3 Liturgy Committees plan ahead for the Church's seasons, including Advent and Lent.	• A choir supports each regular Mass at least once each month. • Both parishes have an active Liturgy Committee.
2 PRAYER AND FORMATION 1.2 Leongatha prayer groups share ideas and resources with Korumburra. 1.4 Prepare for the Eucharistic Congress 2028 through Eucharistic catechesis in each parish. 1.5 Offer formation sessions on topics identified through parishioner surveys. (e.g. Purgatory, Christology, etc.) 1.6 Offer retreats and talks for particular groups, including families and young people.	• Both parishes have active prayer groups. • Eucharistic catechesis is offered on several dates and includes sacramental candidates from our primary schools. • Parishioners attend the Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028. • Parishioner surveys inform formation topics. • Formation sessions are offered bimonthly - six each year. • A youth group is established.
3 COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION 1.7 Communicate the focus and intention of this priority through the wider parish communication plan.	• A live annual parish calendar is operating. • A formal communication plan covering at least three years is operating.

Action / focus	What we will do	What progress will look like
[Enter focus]	[Enter action]	[Enter progress measure]
[Enter focus]	[Enter action]	[Enter progress measure]
[Enter focus]	[Enter action]	[Enter progress measure]

DIOCESAN PRIORITY 2

Advance Synodal Leadership and Engagement

OUR PARISH GOAL - Provide pathways to serve God and neighbour by increasing parishioner engagement in leading parish programs and maintenance, actively inviting people according to their gifts and abilities.

STRENGTHS – Prayer and Liturgy: Various Prayer groups, Rosary before Mass, Mass at nursing homes, Lay Leaders of the Liturgy of the Word with Communion, Adoration, Gospel discussion groups, RCIA, catechism classes and school Masses.

Committees: Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, Liturgy Committees, Safeguarding Officers, St Vincent de Paul, Parish Working Bees, and other established ministry rosters.

ACTIONS	EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS
1 CLARIFY ROLES AND GIFTS 2.1 Create a list of the roles needed or desired for the effective and appropriate life of the parishes, clarifying relevant common-law and canon-law requirements. 2.2 Survey parishioners about the skills, gifts, talents and willingness they can contribute to parish life. 2.3 The Parish Pastoral Council discerns the survey results in light of parish needs and hopes.	• The Parish Pastoral Council develops the roles list. • A 'gifts and skills survey' is developed and distributed. • Survey findings are considered and acted upon.
2 FORM AND SUPPORT LEADERS 2.4 Provide instruction, training and onboarding for people invited or volunteering for roles.	• Training and formation opportunities are developed and completed. • Volunteer numbers increase.
3 LISTEN AND COMMUNICATE 2.5 Hold open parish gatherings twice each year for reports, information, discussion and questions. 2.6 Create and regularly update visible charts of parish roles, leaders and volunteer contacts, including a clear statement of the parish leadership structure.	• Regular open forums enable parishioners to understand and discuss parish life at every level. • Clear visual information shows parish groups, programs, activities and contacts. • The number and reach of parish programs increase. • Parishioners can express and speak about how shared leadership and engagement operate.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE		TIMELINE
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DIOCESAN PRIORITY 3

Build an Inclusive and Welcoming Church

OUR PARISH GOAL - Create the community in which individuals and families are welcomed, parish groups are supported to be open, inclusive, hospitable and friendly and integrate a culture and spirituality of Safeguarding into the daily life of the Parish.

STRENGTHS - Monthly cuppas, monthly family group gatherings; visits to nursing homes, Holy Communion to homes and nursing homes; greeters; Gospel reflection and Lenten groups; RCIA; Catholic Women's League; Adoration; catechism classes; participation in the ecumenical life of various other churches; Parish attendance at various school events; and music concerts in the buildings.

ACTIONS	EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS
1 INVITE AND SUPPORT GIFTS 3.1 Talent recruitment undertaken several times over the life of strategy. 3.2 Provide ongoing formation and support for volunteers, especially in matters of safeguarding, in difficult experiences, new ideas and reviewing of the progress of the ministry - document this support and offer it consistently.	- The number of volunteers and helpers increases by 20% over next five years. - Each ministry undertakes a training or support program every year.
2 WELCOME NEWCOMERS 3.3 Seek out and follow up newcomers through a dedicated welcome group and a welcome pack.	- A dedicated parish group follows up newcomers. - A welcome pack is developed and distributed. - People report that they feel included in parish life.
3 BUILD FELLOWSHIP 3.4 Create opportunities for parishioners to socialise, including shared meals and other gatherings.	- Fellowship grows across the communities and there is greater appreciation of various cultures and ethnic groups within the parish. - There is greater openness to change and to others. - Young people participate more often in parish events.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE		TIMELINE
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DIOCESAN PRIORITY 4

Inspire the Engagement of Young People and Families

OUR PARISH GOAL - Increase the involvement of young people and families in preparing, planning and celebrating gatherings and events connected with the parishes and the life of the Church.

STRENGTHS - School Masses within the three Catholic schools; youth ministry at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College; and sacramental programs and liturgies across the parish churches.

ACTIONS	EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS
1 LISTEN AND BEGIN 4.1 Invite established youth groups from other parishes to share ideas and lead an initial session to help form a local youth group.	• Connections are established with youth groups locally and across the Diocese. • A parish youth group is established. • The group meets regularly, for example on second and fourth Fridays.
2 CELEBRATE AND LEAD 4.2 Plan, prepare and celebrate a Youth Mass on a monthly basis. 4.4 Ensure children proclaim the Word and read the Prayers of the Faithful during Sacramental Masses.	• A dedicated youth liturgy group is established. • Schools consistently help identify students who can participate in parish life.
3 CONNECT AND ACCOMPANY 4.3 Invite visiting speakers and youth ministers to engage young people and young families. 4.5 Invite young people and families to special events during the year, with particular attention to World Youth Day 2027.	• One or two speakers engage young people each year. • Regular events for young people and families are established, such as an Alumni Mass, pet blessings and a South Gippsland Camino. • Eligible parishioners are supported to participate in World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul.

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DIOCESAN PRIORITY 5**Enhance Parish-School Collaboration**

OUR PARISH GOAL - Develop an annual communication strategy between the schools and parishes, reviewed regularly to strengthen the partnership and shared mission.

STRENGTHS - Students attend weekday parish Masses on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; students are increasingly familiar with the Mass; and Sacramental programs culminate in parish celebrations.

ACTIONS	EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS
1 PARTICIPATE IN PARISH LIFE 5.1 Invite students to serve in parish Masses, including proclaiming the Scripture and reading the Prayers of the Faithful.	• Mass attendance by school families increases. • The number of Baptisms increases.
2 CELEBRATE TOGETHER 5.4 Celebrate special Masses at the schools and invite families and parishioners to participate.	• Parishioner attendance at school Masses and events increases.
3 PLAN AND COMMUNICATE 5.2 Develop, implement and regularly review a combined parish-schools calendar so events are clearly communicated. 5.3 Publish relevant calendar items each term in the parish bulletin, with a Parish Priest's comment where appropriate. 5.5 The Parish Priest shares key messages from Religious Education and Catholic Social Teaching in accessible language, so that parishioners understand the positive work occurring in the schools. 5.6 The Parish Priest contributes seasonal messages to school social media and newsletters, including Easter and other significant occasions.	• The three schools and the parishes plan for events and communicate with greater consistency utilising the Parish Calander. • Diocesan and Parish contents are provided frequently for school social media and newsletters.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE		TIMELINE
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DIOCESAN PRIORITY 6**Ignite Missionary Outreach and Evangelisation**

OUR PARISH GOAL – Demonstrate the Parish commitment to witnessing Christ's love in the community and Catholic Social Justice Principles through consolidation of, and by offering new outreach opportunities.

STRENGTHS – Greeters at the churches; St Vincent de Paul conferences and shops; combined-church events; World Day of Prayer; Palm Sunday Walk; Sunday Afternoon at Mardan; the Italian Festa in Mirboo North; community food hubs; monthly cuppas; family groups; and a range of rostered ministries.

ACTIONS**1 DEFINE AND DISCERN**

- 6.1** Co-create a statement that defines 'outreach' and 'evangelisation' for our parish and offer subsequent training to members to action it, if required.
- 6.5** Survey parishioners to identify needs and the people available to support initiatives.

**2 BUILD WELCOMING COMMUNITIES**

- 6.2** Extend family groups more widely in Korumburra and Leongatha, including connections with new school families.
- 6.3** Extend prayer, Gospel reflection and Advent or Lenten groups across the communities, considering accessible times and places.
- 6.4** Explore ways for people to participate in prayer online.

**3 COMMUNICATE AND CONNECT**

- 6.6** Use local media and radio to promote parish initiatives.
- 6.7** Develop further connections with other local Christian communities, especially in Leongatha.

**EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS**

- Interested parishioners gain a clear understanding of outreach and evangelisation steps.
- Outreach initiatives are supported by appropriate formation and practical support.
- A final survey establishes the 2030-31 baseline of parishioner connection with parish life.

- A welcome pack is developed and made available for newcomers.
- Attendance at Mass grows.
- RCIA Participants grows.
- Participation in other parish and community groups increases.
- Interest in learning about 'faith in action' grows.

- Information about parish activities and resources is easy to be found and shared.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE		TIMELINE
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IMPLEMENTATION | ACCOUNTABILITY | REVIEW**From Plan to Action**

The plan remains alive when responsibilities are clear, progress is visible and the parish keeps listening.

ANNUAL ACTION REGISTER - At the beginning of each year, the Parish Pastoral Council will confirm the actions to be advanced, the person or group leading them, timing, required resources and the evidence to be collected.

WHEN	SHARED MILESTONE
2026	Commission the plan; create small ministry committees; develop the parish roles and gifts survey; establish shared calendar and communication foundations.
2027	Act on survey findings; continue twice-yearly open parish forums; strengthen youth and family engagement, including World Youth Day; complete a cyclical review.
2028	Offer Eucharistic catechesis and prepare for the Eucharistic Congress; continue ministry formation, welcome and outreach initiatives.
2029	Participate in diocesan and local review; publish progress; adjust actions in light of evidence, resources and parish feedback.
2030-31	Complete the summative parish survey; report outcomes; establish the next baseline and discern the succeeding pastoral plan.

Shared responsibility

- The Parish Priest provides sacramental and pastoral leadership and sustains relationships with schools and diocesan ministries.
- The Parish Pastoral Council discerns priorities, coordinates action, listens to parishioners and reports progress.
- Ministry committees lead agreed actions, welcome volunteers and provide formation.
- Catholic schools collaborate in shared calendars, formation, liturgy and engagement of students and families.
- Every parishioner is invited to pray, participate, share gifts, welcome others and help the parishes reach outward.

DISCERNMENT FROM THE PLANNING PROCESS

What We Heard...

The plan began with prayerful listening: naming what gives hope and honestly recognising what may hold us back.

WHAT EXCITES US	WHAT CONCERNS US
• Faith in action that promotes happiness, hope and security. • Churches open and active more often, with renewed and life-giving celebration of Mass. • More people contributing their gifts and taking ownership of parish life. • Refreshing the fundamentals of faith and worship. • Communal groups that actively invite others. • Schools as resource partners, with students increasingly familiar with Mass and parish life.	• Barriers that keep families and individuals from parish life, including uncertainty, shame, past experiences, resistance or anger. • Limited resources and difficult timetabling across dispersed communities. • Unclear leadership and too much work resting with too few people. • Whether enough willing people have the skills needed for particular tasks. • The pastoral realities of mental health and grief. • The need for a suitable gathering space in Korumburra.

How the plan will remain sustainable

PRAY - Begin with prayer and discernment before strategising and planning.

PRIORITISE - Choose an achievable group of actions for each year rather than attempting everything at once.

SHARE - Distribute leadership, invite gifts and form new committees so responsibility does not remain with a few.

COMMUNICATE - Keep every worshipping community informed of progress and challenges.

REVIEW - Use open forums, surveys and success indicators to learn, report and adapt.

The plan is not the work of the Parish Pastoral Council alone. It becomes real through a Synodal Life: Ordinary acts of prayer, leadership, participation, service, welcome and witness.

PRAY - Pray for the parishes, join a prayer or formation group, and participate fully and joyfully in the Eucharist.

PARTICIPATE - Attend an open parish gathering, read progress updates and contribute respectfully to shared discernment.

SHARE GIFTS - Respond to the gifts and skills survey, volunteer for a role, and encourage someone whose gifts may otherwise go unseen.

WELCOME - Notice newcomers, learn names, support shared meals and help every person feel that there is a place for them.

ACCOMPANY - Support children, young people and families to pray, lead, ask questions and take part in parish life. Live the spirituality of Safeguarding.

REACH OUTWARD - Join practical service, ecumenical relationships, community partnerships and public witness shaped by Catholic social teaching.

A FIRST STEP - Speak with a greeter, ministry leader, school representative or member of the Parish Pastoral Council; attend an open parish gathering; or contact the Parish Office to express interest.

The next step I can take is: -

A PRAYER FOR OUR JOURNEY

Holy Spirit of Wind and Fire, Come!

Holy Spirit of Wind and Fire, come!

Startle us anew with your power and energy.

Blow fresh life through our tired dreams.

Fan into a flame the gifts you have given us.

Light up the windows of our joy and purpose.

Spark bright fires of optimism deep within us.

Reveal more clearly a vision of what is possible.

May we listen attentively to your quiet whisper at our very core.

May we discern your call expressed in the voices and stories of others.

May we build a Church that radiates and nourishes our unity of faith.

May we be at one with all of humanity and the rest of God's creation.

May we develop the courage to be people of mission,

alert to opportunities, always on the move,

bringing Good News to our needy world,

Wind and Fire for one another.

Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Pray for Us.⁶



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF SALE

⁶ *Diocesan Prayer, Diocese of Sale Pastoral Plan Framework 2026-2030*

