



# ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2017/18



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The Trustees of Kildare Ministries have pleasure in presenting their fourth Report to the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life* since the commencement of Kildare Ministries in 2014, building upon the report submitted in 2016-2017.

The theme for 2017-2018 was the value of HOPE. This theme was the cornerstone of all our formation work and written reflections in our publications. We could draw upon the many messages that Pope Francis has provided over these years. Further, as places of faith our primary role is to give witness to HOPE to all who come into contact with our education and community support. Therefore, the theme resonated well with our students and adult participants who encounter our ministries in search of help and support.

Entering into our fifth year, we believe that we have established ourselves as a new entity in the Church and we have developed a sense of ownership and belonging.

## OVERVIEW

1. Relationships have continued to be strengthened across the community, especially evident after the land transfer rituals.
2. Kildare Ministries welcomed Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project as a new community work. This means that we are now stewards for ten schools and three community works.
3. The Land Transfer Rituals provided a graced and sacred opportunity to give thanks to the Brigidine and Presentation Sisters for all that they have given to each Ministry. Importantly, it was also an opportunity to further consolidate the recognition of Kildare Ministries as stewards of our ministries into the future.
4. The Strategic Intention for the Trustees and the Kildare Ministries Community is in the final year and work is being completed to develop new Strategic Intentions for the next two years.
5. The Formation Programme is well embedded. The biennial Pilgrimage to Ireland in 2017 was a huge success due a fulsome programme with a cross section of leaders who attended.
6. Anecdotal feedback on the formation activities offered, tells us that our participants are experiencing a high level of satisfaction, both personally and when shared in community. We put this down to the depth of experience offered and the participants' receptiveness to the invitation. It is clear these experiences are meeting a personal and communal need to nurture relationships with God, within the context of their lived experience. The strengthened sense of belonging to the Kildare Ministries community is evidenced through dialogue, action and commitment.
7. Kildare Ministries has consolidated its involvement in the Association of Ministerial PJP's (AMP).

## SECTION 1- THE WORK OF THE TRUSTEES

### 1.1 – The Trustees



The 2017- 2018 Co-Chairs of the Trustees

Maree Marsh csb  
Rosemary Copeland

Trustees

Anne Astin  
Brigid Arthur csb  
Kathy McEvoy  
Vicki Ward  
Nola Vanderfeen pbvm

The Trustees have remained unchanged for this reporting period. Qualifications and Experience was reported in 2016-2017 report

The pictorial representation below demonstrates the Trustees commitment to strengthening relationships, knowledge and understanding between the Trustees and the Ministries:



Trustee Meeting - Discussing Plenary Council



Recording Kildare Ministries Video



Directors Professional Development



Principal and Faith Leaders' Retreat

**Trustees**

**Visits**



Visiting Brigidine  
College, Randwick



Kilbreda College



Kildare College



St. Joseph's College



Clonard College



Wellsprings for  
Women Visit



Star of the Sea College-  
Ministry Visit



Brigidine College,  
Indooroopilly



Marian College,  
Ararat



Killester College

## 1.2 Formation for Trustees

The Trustees begin each meeting with dedicated time for their own formation and spiritual nourishment through prayer, discernment and shared wisdom. Each takes turn to lead the conversation and to ask relevant and challenging questions. The fruits of such time are seen in their written reflections to the community; in the themes and agendas for meeting and in the preparation of the biennial conference.

With the announcement of the 2020 Plenary Council to be held in Australia, the Trustees have sought ways to engage with the preliminary conversations and to animate the work amongst the ministries. The Executive Director attended the launch of the Plenary Council in Sydney in September 2017 where a focused group gathered for the day to understand how the plenary council could work and to offer feedback and wisdom regarding the process to the organising committee.

The Trustees focused on their own formation via their visit with a number of Bishops to discuss the scope and sequence of the plenary and general governance issues as well. In May the Trustees met with Archbishop Coleridge and Bishop Long to explore ways in which opportunities for dialogue between the Church and the Kildare Ministries community could be encouraged and facilitated.

Trustees also attended the annual gathering of the Association of Ministerial PJP's and the Co-Chair Rosemary Copeland is on the executive committee of this new Association. Its aim is to find ways that the various PJP's can work together, especially in the area of formation. Two Trustees are long standing members of the Catholic Religious Victoria Education Committee which meets four times each year. This year there was a stronger focus on the intersection between the Association of the Ministerial PJP and the Catholic Religious Australia group. The restructuring of the latter has shifted the focus for the Victorian group but it remains a collegial and supportive governance network for religious order owned schools and the PJP's.

## 1.3 Strategic Intent for Kildare Ministries

This strategic intent covers two years of development and highlights three significant areas: relationships, our role in the Church and safe communities. At the same time the Trustees have evaluated the current plan with a view of developing a new strategic plan for 2019-2020.

## 1.4 Governance

The Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP), was welcomed into Kildare Ministries at the beginning of 2018. This is the newest Community Work to join and its focus is the advocacy and support for asylum seekers and refugees. BASP has an excellent reputation in the community and its co-ordinator, Brigid Arthur csb has a formidable reputation amongst other advocate groups often being called upon to speak in the public square about unjust treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia.



The inclusion of another community work has given rise to the need to focus on the development and interconnectedness of the community works. Kildare Ministries has conducted more network meetings focusing on this aspect and the Leaders have reported a greater sense of connectedness to Kildare Ministries as a result.



A significant milestone in the development of Kildare Ministries has been the ceremony that has marked the transfer of land from the Brigidine and Presentation Congregations to the Trustees of Kildare Ministries. Nine out of the ten schools and two community works have conducted ceremonies and liturgies that marked this occasion, each being unique and drawing upon the history and tradition of each place. Importantly, each of these ceremonies featured the traditional welcome to land ritual by the local indigenous representatives. It was an important milestone both for the local community and the Trustees. Most memorable of all was the emotion, sentiment and hope for the future that it evoked in all present.

The network of Chairs of Boards met twice in this reporting period. Standing items on the agenda include immersion in prayer and formation as well as items related to child protection and safety and civil responsibilities of the incorporated Boards. Leadership for Mission is becoming more deeply understood each time this group meets.

The Trustees have developed a stronger relationship with each of the Boards and finds that the six-monthly meeting with the Chair and the Leader is a very useful and effective way of understanding the unique qualities and challenges of each ministry. However, developing a relationship with each of the 48 Directors is more challenging. One small step taken in an attempt to bridge this gap is that the Trustees attend the Annual General Meeting for each Board. At this time the Trustees share a meal with the Directors, as well as allocating an hour or so to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Directors about a significant current issue that could have an effect on the functioning of our ministries. Feedback about this process is largely positive though the trick is always to find a topic to discuss that engages all Boards and all directors to the same degree.

In December 2017, the Executive Director attended a professional learning seminar titled, *Faith Based Governance and Dispute Resolution*, held in Melbourne. This seminar provided insight about the complexities of resolving industrial issues within the faith framework of governing schools and hospitals.



## SECTION 2- EMBEDDING OUR IDENTITY

### 2.1 Formation Program

The Kildare Ministries Formation Program has become embedded in the life of our Ministries with a predictable flow to the year aligned with the school calendar. At the same time, new opportunities continue to be explored, especially with the community works and student leaders, as we seek to respond to the needs of our Ministries within the Framework of our Formation Program and the Vision, Mission and Values of Kildare Ministries.

The principles of the Kildare Ministries formation programme remains unchanged during this reporting period. That is, all formation programmes are developed through the lens of the *unfolding story*, through *experience and expression* and *becoming*. Experiences are embedded in scripture, steeped in the Catholic tradition, grounded in theology and draw from the aspirations and values inherited from the Brigidine and Presentation traditions.

#### Overview of events

The Formation Framework offers events at varying levels of depth, length and size, recognising that formation in faith is an invitational process beckoning a response of the heart. It seeks to meet people wherever they are at on their stage of the journey. The table which follows provides an overview of events held during the timeframe of this report.

| <b>Event</b>                                      | <b>Participants</b>   | <b>Aims</b>   | <b>Duration</b>          |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Induction</b>                                  |   |   |                          |
| New Staff   | Any staff new to Kildare Ministries' schools or community works.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explore the mission and ministry of Kildare Ministries</li> <li>To place Jesus at the centre of all that is done in the name of Kildare Ministries</li> <li>To develop an appreciation of how the founding stories inspire the work of Kildare Ministries today</li> </ul>  | 2-day sequential program |
| New Board Directors & Stewardship Council Members | New Chairs of Boards and Chairs of Stewardship Councils<br>New Directors of Boards and Members of Stewardship Councils. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explore the Mission and Identity of Kildare Ministries</li> <li>To discern how our mission informs our decision making as governors and stewards</li> <li>To understand the difference between civil and canon law</li> <li>To trace the journey of our Founders to the new entity of Kildare Ministries</li> </ul> | 1-day seminar            |

| <b>Deepening Connectedness</b>                         |  |   |                                  |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Founding Grace Retreat                                 | Staff members identified by their Principal or Manager, seeking to further strengthen their spiritual and faith journey.   | <p>This retreat offers time for reflection and discernment with an emphasis on deepening one's own faith journey by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drawing inspiration from our founders</li> <li>• sharing experiences and wisdom about the Church's mission and the unfolding narrative of Kildare Ministries</li> <li>• connecting with others in community through prayer and liturgy</li> <li>• inviting deeper engagement with the mission of Kildare Ministries through the lens of individual roles</li> </ul> | 2-day & 2 night retreat          |
| Inaugural Conference                                   | Approximately 5 members of leadership teams from each Ministry, Trustees of Kildare Ministries, representatives from Members Council and Congregational Leadership Teams | <p>Speakers focused on the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Historical development of Kildare Ministries</li> <li>2. A call to mission leadership</li> <li>3. Emerging critical areas within our Ministries affecting our young people and staff</li> <li>4. The role of PJP and the developing Church</li> <li>5. Courageous Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</li> </ol>  | 2 days and 1 night               |
| Trustees' Formation                                    | Trustees, Executive Director of Kildare Ministries and Mission Leader  | A one-day retreat was held to reflect upon the importance of formation and its impact on the connectedness of the Kildare Ministries community. Individual Trustees attended various other formation activities throughout the year.  | Several days throughout the year |
| <b>Leadership Formation</b>                            |  |   |                                  |
| New Leaders' Seminar                                   | Staff members in Kildare Ministries' schools who are new to senior and middle leadership positions   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet with one another in their shared mission of leadership for Kildare Ministries</li> <li>• To build an understanding of leadership in a Kildare Ministries context</li> <li>• To dialogue with experienced school leaders about the skills and attributes of effective leaders</li> <li>• Through reflection and discussion, to discern goals for individual leadership development</li> </ul>   | 1-day seminar                    |
| Board Directors & Stewardship Council Members' Seminar | Directors of Kildare Ministries' Boards and Members of Stewardship Council   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To explore the Mission and Identity of Kildare Ministries through dialogue and reflection on an important contemporary issue</li> </ul>  | 1-day seminar                    |

|   |  |  |                  |
|---|--|--|------------------|
|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To discern how our mission affects our decision making as governors and stewards</li> <li>• To consider our response as governors and stewards</li> </ul> |                  |
| <b><i>Network Meetings</i></b>                  |  |  |                  |
| Board Chairs                                    | <p>The Network of Chairs of Boards brings together the four Chairs of the College Boards and the two Chairs of the Community Works to provide personal and professional support and guidance within a peer-to-peer framework, seeking to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintain a spirit of professional collegiality and support amongst the Board Chairs to deliver effective governance of Boards which is mission focused both within each Ministry and together for the longevity of Kildare Ministries</li> <li>• provide the opportunity for the discussion, and identification, of significant issues relating to mission and governance which face the Ministries both now and into the future</li> </ul> | 2 1-day meetings per year  |                  |
| Principals/<br>Leaders of<br>Community<br>Works | <p>Principals of Kildare Ministries Schools and Leaders of Community Works gather regularly as a collegial network to focus specifically on issues pertaining to their Mission Leadership in Kildare Ministries. These meetings and reflection days aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explore a pertinent issue that is affecting our Ministries, from an historical, social and theoretical perspective</li> <li>• discern the implications of the relevant church teachings</li> <li>• articulate a Kildare Ministries response</li> </ul>  | 3 1-day meetings and an alternating retreat or conference  |                  |
| School Faith & Mission Leaders                  | <p>Faith &amp; Mission Leaders from Kildare Ministries schools gather regularly to focus specifically on their task to support their Principals in furthering the Mission of Kildare Ministries within each school. Specific aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to build and strengthen a collegial network of support for those in this key leadership role</li> <li>• to provide ongoing formation around key aspects of mission leadership</li> <li>• to explore and share contemporary resources and programs</li> </ul>   | 4 1-day meetings across the year. 1 meeting shared with Social Justice staff.  |                  |
| School Social Justice Coordinators              | <p>Social Justice Leaders from Kildare Ministries schools gather regularly for ongoing professional formation, specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• build and strengthen a collegial network of support for those in the role of leading Justice Programs in Kildare Ministries school</li> <li>• provide ongoing formation around key issues of justice and their connection to the mission of Kildare Ministries</li> <li>• explore contemporary resources and programs</li> </ul>  | 4 1-day meetings across the year. 1 meeting shared with Faith & Mission Leaders.   |                  |
| <b><i>Educating for Justice</i></b>             |  |  |                  |
| Social Justice Seminar for                      | 6 social justice leaders from Kildare Ministries'  | The first seminar is a two-day conference aimed at Social Justice Leaders, providing the opportunity to learn more about   | 2-day, overnight |

|                                   |  |  |                  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| Student Leaders                   | schools, suitable for students in Yrs 11-12  | contemporary issues of social justice and the call to Christian disciples to work for a more just world. Students will learn from guest speakers and workshop among themselves to plan activities for the coming year. |                  |
| Indigenous Reconciliation Seminar | 12 social justice participants in Kildare Ministries' schools, suitable for Yrs 9-11 | The second seminar is timed to learn more about Indigenous issues in the lead-up to National Reconciliation Week and National Sorry Day. Students will be encouraged to plan for Reconciliation Week in late May.      | 1-day seminar    |
| Student Volunteering              | 4 social justice participants in Kildare Ministries' schools, suitable for Yrs 8-9   | The final seminar is an opportunity for hands-on volunteering. This experience enables students to learn more about our Community Works as well as gain an insight into the many benefits of volunteering.             | 1-day experience |

### 2.1.1 Review and Evaluation

The Mission & Ministry team engages in an ongoing process of review and evaluation in order to continually reflect and discern the best way to meet the formation needs of the Kildare Ministries community. A sample of the feedback from this process follows:

#### Induction for new Board Directors/Stewardship Council Members

18 in attendance

*"I enjoyed exploring the idea of formation, over and above the governance aspects of being a director of a Kildare Ministries school: "Remember not to worship the ashes but to pass on the flame!"*

#### Seminar for Administration Staff

14 in attendance

*"The Seminar made me feel so appreciated for the work I do and I was overwhelmed with how passionate the team at Kildare Ministries are. I loved forming connections with administrative staff from other schools and walked away feeling so grateful for the community that surrounds me within my workplace."*

#### Formation for New School Leaders

8 in attendance

*"I learnt that grace is attainable in all that we do, but it can be hard work. I enjoyed learning about how to keep the notion that all people are valued in our work as leaders. It was helpful to consider the difference between leaders and managers, and particularly within the context of the Catholic school."*

## 2.2 Special Events

### 2.2.1 2017 Pilgrimage to Ireland

Over the course of 15 days, 21 Pilgrims from Kildare Ministries' schools travelled across Ireland for deep immersion in our Celtic-Christian origins. The bringing together of a diverse group of people from all levels of governance and school leadership for an intensive period of learning, prayer and conversation bears significant fruits, not least being the forming of strong links across our Ministries.

The following reflection is written by one of our pilgrims:

*"Your three highlights?" This has been a constant question since returning from the Pilgrimage. The answer varies each time. It isn't that I can't make up my mind – it is just that every day held its own highlights.*

*The reflective tone was set on the first morning with a session of Centring Prayer and the historic tone was set with the afternoon visit to Brú na Bóinne. It is hard to imagine standing in a tomb built more than 5000 years ago. Later visits to old monastic sites, Clonmacnoise, Inis Mor and Glendalough, highlighted the age and depth of the commitment of the early monks to the spread of God's word and love. Brigid, of course, had her double monastery in Kildare. Standing in the Fire Temple there, even without the fire, brought the past into the present. Also in Kildare, it was wonderful to see and spend time in the Solas Bhríde Centre and see one of the Hermitages - such a beautiful centre, alive with the spirit of the goddess Brigit and St Brigid.*

*Standing in Daniel Delany's childhood home and to pray in that space was a very moving experience. Then to arrive in Tullow, the birthplace of the Brigidine Congregation. It was like coming home. It was an incredible experience to see and be in the buildings, grounds and the Church where Daniel and the early Sisters lived, worked and prayed.*

*The time spent in Ballygriffin and Cork earlier, learning about Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters, was like another home-coming. I knew that there were many similarities between the Brigidine and Presentation Sisters. In fact, the early Brigidines wore the Presentation habit. I was inspired by the work still being carried out by Nano's Sisters and their co-workers in and around Cork.*

*Our day at Glendalough was one I will never forget: the deeply reflective pilgrimage led by Michael Rodgers and then the moving Mass – moving in both senses of the word, being moved while moving from significant site to significant site for the various parts of the Mass, finishing in the Women's Church.*

*Other highlights in brief: the ritual at Mass Rock, Noelia Molina quoting from the poem about Nano Nagle in her Spanish/Irish accent 'Go Out!!', making my first-ever Brigid's Cross, nearly being blown off Croagh Patrick half way up and Mick, our wonderful bus driver.*

*It goes without saying that none of this could have happened without the wonderful organisation by the team, the quality of the various guides and presenters, the rituals and times of reflection that interspersed the Pilgrimage, and the wonderful group of pilgrims who were committed to making this a rich and lasting experience."*

**Lia Commadeur csb**



### **2.2.2 2017 Principals' & Faith Leaders' Retreat**

On 16-18 August our Principals and Faith Leaders gathered in Sydney to explore their shared role in Faith Leadership of our schools. Our retreat began with a beautiful, hospitable welcome at Brigidine College, St Ives culminating in the celebration of Eucharist in their Chapel. This celebration set the tone for our retreat as Fr Michael Trainor urged us to listen deeply to our call to discipleship, all the while 'keeping our eye on Jesus'. Following our time at St Ives we travelled together to St Joseph's Retreat Centre, Kincumber and spent the next two days exploring the complexity of faith leadership as presented in the letters of Paul and Gospels of Mark and John under Michael's guidance. We invited Michael to share some thoughts on how this experience has been for him:

*"Being with people who are faith filled, educationally professional and engaged with the world in which they educate is a powerful experience. This experience, from our recent Kildare Ministries retreat, affirmed my spirit in many ways. It affirmed how the wisdom of the followers of Jesus in the first century CE, of Paul, Mark, Luke and John, can confirm us in the truth of our experience and the direction in which we are being called.*

*If I may speak directly, what touched me most was your openness of heart to allow yourself to be affirmed, troubled, encouraged, and challenged by the wisdom of your forebears, of these earliest generations of Jesus followers who had the same concern that you have as educational faith leaders—to make discipleship with Jesus a reality in a constantly changing world. What these 'elders' teach us is to acknowledge the presence and action of God in our world, the beauty and goodness of creation and people we are with, of our lives, that we are carried by God, and through Jesus to be collaborators of grace and faith.*

*As we seek to build inclusive, open and grace-filled educational spaces, we do this with the support and insights of faith-filled colleagues who, like you, are disciples of Jesus and embraced by God's presence. What you are embarking on is a courageous act: to believe that our Catholic tradition can authentically offer us the wisdom to move forward creatively, faithfully and collaboratively. The core values of Kildare Ministries provide the ground for encountering freshly this wisdom. Thank you for allowing me to share my insights into this wisdom that emerge from the earliest households of Jesus followers."*

Fr Michael Trainor



### **2.2.3 2018 Founding Grace Retreat**

The Founding Grace Retreat took place from Wednesday 23rd June to Friday 25th in the beautiful Grange Macedon Ranges in Lancefield. Sixteen inspiring, hard-working staff members from our ministries shared stories, reflected and connected through prayer, mediation and dialogue.

Annette Lamont from Kildare College wrote a piece about her experience:

*"Late last year the APRIM at my school spoke to me about the Founding Grace Retreat. He thought it would provide me with the opportunity to build relationships with staff at other Kildare Ministries schools, especially as our school is located in Adelaide. The retreat looked very worthwhile and so early in 2018, I registered to attend. As the date approached, I started to think I didn't have time to spend these days away from school attending a retreat. I had Year 12 work to mark, meetings to attend and all the other administration work that comes with being a teacher. I very nearly rang to pull out of the event, but I realised that maybe, in my busy and stressful life, I needed a break."*

*I was right, after an evening spent getting to know my fellow retreatants, I slowly started to relax. The next two days were spent in contemplation and self-reflection and I was amazed at the facilitator's capacity to lead us to a deeper sense of self. The retreat was focussed around Isaiah 52:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes...." We were led to examine our lives and to consider where we needed to grow and what we might need to let go of. I also began to build relationships with the other participants and to hear of the wonderful things happening in the other Kildare Ministries schools. I went back to school a renewed person, ready to take on the challenges working with young people brings and with a renewed sense of self."*

Annette Lamont



## SECTION 3- THE MINISTRIES

### 3.1 Land Transfer Rituals

The major focus this year was on the transfer of land ritual conducted in each ministry in 2018. Below is a pictorial representation of these ceremonies.

#### St Joseph's College, Echuca

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

#### Kilbreda College, Mentone

1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

#### Brigidine College, St. Ives

24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

#### Star of the Sea College, Brighton

28<sup>th</sup> May 2018

#### Wellsprings for Women

28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

#### Kildare College, Adelaide

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

#### Marian College, Ararat

13<sup>th</sup> August 2018

#### Marian College, Sunshine West

14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

#### Killester College, Springvale

17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

#### Clonard College, Geelong

21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

**Upcoming 2018/19**

#### Presentation Family Centre

24<sup>th</sup> November 2018

#### Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

8<sup>th</sup> February 2019



### 3.2 Educating for Justice Framework

Over the past two years the network of Faith & Mission Leaders from Kildare Ministries schools has been developing a Framework for shaping how *Justice* is explored through all domains of school life. As the project has progressed the scope has grown to include *Justice* as central to the mission of our Community Works also. Nearing its completion, the Framework will ground *Justice* as core to the Vision, Mission and Values of all of Kildare Ministries and highlight key principles for the way it is embedded in Ministry life. In these final stages, the *Living Justice Framework* needs further consultation before we are ready to launch it as central to our work.

In addition, our students have engaged in this work participating in student forums, seminars and volunteering at our community works.



## SECTION 4 - ECCLESIAL RELATIONS

### 4.1 Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

The breadth and depth of the scandalous behaviour revealed at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has impaired the reputation and credibility of the Catholic Church in Australia, especially in this reporting period as the findings and recommendations have been handed down. Further, apparently wavering commitment to the *redress scheme* from some Catholic institutions has further compromised the Church. The Trustees have been required to attend forums and conferences to learn more about the impact of such wide spread abuse but also to understand the new legislation regarding child protection and the scope of the redress scheme. Our leaders have found this context difficult to manage and to be beacons of hope when indeed for some, there is no hope that the Church can offer. Further, the Ministries have turned to the Trustees for advice and support as leaders faced challenging times within their own communities.

A positive outcome from such a shameful story has been that groups like Kildare Ministries have rallied with a stronger voice to speak out against injustices, especially towards children and vulnerable adults. Our communities are more aware and better educated about the patterns of behaviour and culture that allows sexual abuse of children to go unnoticed or unchallenged and therefore better prepared to protect children through their processes and frameworks.

### 4.2 The Plenary Council 2020

The Australian Bishops have stirred hope in the hearts of Catholics by the promise of a Plenary Council in 2020. This year our ministries have been engaged in understanding what the process will involve and offering their input through the Plenary 2020 website. Many have worked with their staff and broader community to capture the essence of ‘what God is asking of us today?’

### 4.3 Members Council of the Trustees

The Members’ Council welcomed a new member in Ms Shirley Gauci who replaced Mrs Mary Power in mid-2018. Ms Gauci enjoys a long association with both the Presentation and Brigidine Sisters and brings to the table many years of experience with religious governance in schools.

The Council met with the Trustees four times in the reporting period and discussed matters of formation and ongoing discernment with regard to renewal of Trustee appointments. The Members Council is continuing to explore prospective succession planning processes for the Trustees.

Time permitting, the Bishops’ Representative, Bishop Leslie Tomlinson attends most meetings of the Members Council.

## SECTION 5 - FINANCIAL REPORT

### Property Transfers

All Land transfers, except one, are complete. The transfer of nine properties in Victoria, six belonging to the Brigidine Sisters and three belonging to Presentation Sisters was completed by the end of 2017. The final property in Brisbane, Queensland will be transferred during 2019.

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee's has remained unchanged and the Trustees acknowledge with appreciation their efforts.

The Committee members are:

**Patrick O'Connor, (Chair)** Fellow Certified Practicing Accountants, Fellow Governance Institute of Australia, accountant and financial advisor to the Presentation Sisters, **Vicki Ward**, Trustee representative, **Angela Ryan csb**, manager of investments for Kildare Ministries and **Phil McCarthy**, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, accountant for Kildare Ministries.



The Finance Committee ensures that Kildare Ministries meets its obligations to the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission*, a national regulatory framework for the not-for-profit sector. It provides the Trustees with advice and guidance on matters related to budget, property rental fee, risk management and ethical investment for the Trustees and the ministries. The Committee also assists in the preparation of the Annual Financial Report and liaises with the external auditor, whose 2017 Financial Report is attached as an appendix to this document.

Funds received from the Ministries as rental fees support the Trustees in their canonical obligations. Through:

- network meetings with Board Chairs, Principals, Managers and Leaders of Community Works
- offering formation to all within our Ministries, at both local and governance levels
- accessing canonical, legal and financial advice
- producing publications to support the developing narrative of Kildare Ministries
- providing executive and secretariat services to the Members Council, Trustees and Boards

The Trustees ensure that Kildare Ministries is functioning appropriately in both canonical and civil spheres. The Finance Statement for the year 2017 is attached (Appendix A).

## CONCLUSION

Kildare Ministries considers that it has successfully transitioned into a new entity and we are now in the processes of establishing processes, policies and procedures that will unite all our ministries from both civil and canonical governance perspectives.

The work of mission leadership will be forever at the forefront of our agenda and work and we will make use of opportunities when the community comes together to create a sense of belonging to and ownership of our Vision, Mission and Values. One such occasion is the bi-ennial conference where leaders at different levels within the organisation come together to dream the future together. There is a fulsome conference being arranged which will focus on the role of the laity within the Church today.

The new strategic plan will deepen the commitment of the Trustees to be a new and strong voice in the Church as well as embedding a heart for justice throughout the Ministries through the implementation of the Living Justice Framework. This Framework will be launched in 2019 and the resourcing of it will govern next year's formation work, through the theme of Hospitality.

