

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE MONTHLY MEETING

There are a number of successful formats for a Care Cell.
Don't follow a format rigidly.

Typically, a Care Cell might include the following sections:

6pm arrival and general chat
6.30pm prayers, soup and sandwich tea
7pm fellowship
7.30pm finish

WORSHIP

Fr John is preparing a brief set of prayers for Care Cells to use which will include a grace to be said before meals. They will be unthreatening, but hopefully meaningful for the group and its purpose,

YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CARE CELL

It is important to make the Care Cell a high priority. Your presence is valuable to the rest of the group. Your participation will help build up the rest of the group. Make a decision not to allow anyone or anything to hinder you from attending your Care Cell.

CARE CELLS

Care Cells will meet monthly for 12 months and then some cells will split in half and invite others to join new Care Cells. This will stop cells from becoming 'clicky' and will increase the number of Care Cells and people involved.

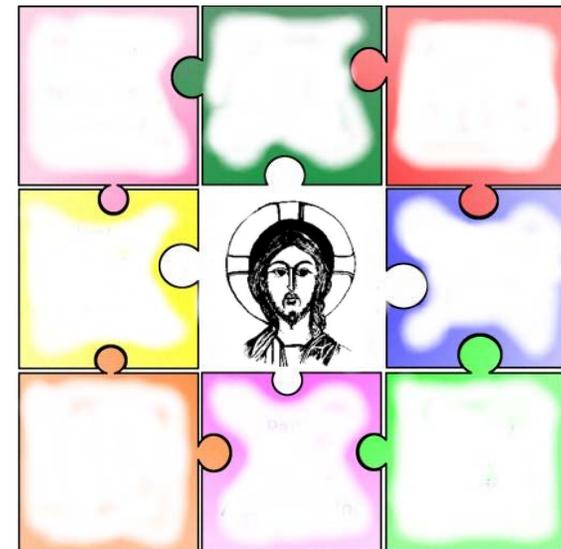
JOINING A CARE CELL

Place your name on the sheet in the narthex. If married please place partners names as well and encourage them to come. Care Cells also include children, young and old.

It would be great to have a special name for your group with the emphasis on fun. eg: Well's Wackers

For more information talk to Fr John or ring him on 0417 407 768 or 5352 1109

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CARE CELLS

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WHAT IS A CARE CELL?

A Care Cell (or Home Cell) is a small group of people who are committed to building up one another in the cell, and to fulfilling the great commission of loving God and their neighbour. They meet together monthly, as well as having contact and supporting each other between meetings at Church. The Cell is like a larger family than just your own.

This small group initiative is an attempt at bringing Christians closer together in a caring, sharing and trusting Christian environment.

Jesus spent a lot of time with his disciples because he loved them. They were with him in a small group context. Jesus is, or should be, our model. The early church certainly followed this example and met regularly in small groups..

WHEN DO CARE CELLS MEET?

Care Cell gatherings should go for 1½ hours starting around 6-7.30pm or 6.30-8pm once a month. Although Care Cells can go longer ideally set your monthly meeting for no more than an hour and a half.

Most successful groups periodically schedule additional activities together such as BBQ, dinner at a restaurant, or a special treat. These activities can be significant in building a sense of community in the group.

Ideally Care Cells members might watch out for each other and talk to each other before or after church services on Sundays or check they are alright if not at Church.

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

We all need valuable relationships. Jesus said, "all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35). The strong friendships that are formed in the Care Cells form a powerful bond during times of crises and sickness. The Care Cells are constantly providing for the needs of Cell Members during these times like sickness, tragedy, or emotional trauma.

LEADERSHIP

Fr John will appoint a Care Cell Co-ordinator who will work with him in supporting Care Cells.

Each Care Cell will have a Care Cell Guardian who will guide and co-ordinate the group. Care Cell Guardians should make sure all members know of meetings and activities and work with the monthly host to be there early to greet members as they arrive and set a positive, welcoming tone.

WHO IS IN THE CARE CELL?

Care Cells serve a combined role of friendship building and mutual support. To achieve this, the groups need to be small with eight to ten people. Larger groups will not comfortably fit in homes.

It would be wonderful if most members of our Church were part of a Care Cell. It is hoped that there might be at least 5 Care Cells operating by the end of 2006

MEETING PLACE

Ideally groups meet in each others home, taking it in turns to move each month to a different home. Some people might not want the group to meet in their home and so only meet in homes of members who are happy for the group to meet there. We associate homes with family and friends and safe places.

If you need transport to the Care Cells please let the Care Cell Guardian know.

MEAL

It is thought that the best fellowship can be had around a meal. Ideally the meals should be kept simple with the emphasis on fellowship and not eating lots of food. Each host should not try to out do the other members of the cell in the catering. Suggestion that the host provide soup for all and other members bring a plate of sandwiches or slices. The host should also provide tea/coffee. A glass of wine can be shared if desired.

During summer, for a change, groups could have a BYO BBQ at one of the homes. The Parish BBQ is available to be borrowed if needed. Please see Fr John if you need it.