

Top 10 New Features

Pastoral Care 12 has been completely rebuilt from the ground up; to list all the new features would be an overload of information as everything within Pastoral Care 12 is new. We have listed here what we see as the top 10 reasons to consider why your church needs to seriously consider upgrading to Pastoral Care 12. The redevelopment of the program has been engineered to give previous users a familiar feel with the navigational around the program while at the same time advancing the user into newer methods and features that will improve your productivity with the program.

- 1) All previous developments of Pastoral Care have been developed in a now discontinued and unsupported programming language from Microsoft. This means no security updates or bug repairs will be supplied by Microsoft and they doubt programs built in that previous language from now on will work on future editions of Windows. In fact we can no longer build Pastoral Care 11 on a Windows 7 machine with any Service Pack installed. Unfortunately Microsoft has declared strongly they want nothing more to do with their programming languages that previous editions of Pastoral Care have been developed in.

This has meant the largest challenge to the development teams twenty six year history in building Pastoral Care in which we have put in an enormous amount of time and expense like no other edition to re build Pastoral Care completely from the ground up. Pastoral Care 12 provides a new generation of software for the church in the latest generation of programming languages to support churches both now and into the future. While providing for the future we have also been mindful that many churches still use Windows XP, Pastoral Care 12 will fully operate on a Windows XP computer with Microsoft's Service Pack 3 installed.

- 2) Booklet Printing: Any report at a click of a button can be sent to the printer to create an A5 booklet using A4 paper. Pastoral Care will automatically convert any A4 report into an A5 format, places all the pages correctly so when the A4 pages are placed on top of each other then folded in half to create an A5 booklet, the pages are all in the right order. For a correct booklet printout a double sided printer is required so that Pastoral Care can automatically place the printer into the correct double sided format.
- 3) Pastoral Care now supports for the first time integrated images within Emails and Custom Letters. Emails also include Hyperlinks and frames for professional layouts.
- 4) New Fields have been included into the database. Medical – keep medical information with notes on anyone. Relationships – Ability to connect people to people who come from blended families with a hyperlink connection within the family file from one family to another.
- 5) Background processing of Emails and SMS, continue working in Pastoral Care while emails or SMS are being sent.

- 6) A New powerful Custom Report program has been developed. No longer do you have to create separate sub reports to then combine them into a master report, now everything has been simplified into a single report in which creating your own unique report is much easier. Amongst the many new features of Custom Reports are new grouped objects, grouped Address, grouped Family Details, and grouped Personal details. These objects have all the details combined together into a single object in which when you choose their properties you have available a tick option to choose what to include in that grouped object.
- 7) New `Custom Directory` program. All the power of Custom Reports, however in a simpler interface with a particular focus on designing your Church Directory, the new grouped objects as listed above with Custom Reports are also included in Custom Directory meaning any user can easily build their own unique church directory report.
- 8) A brand new `Family File` interface, simplified and enlarged with new features. This is the central area in which all family data is entered, it has been carefully redesigned to both increase its flexibility while reducing screen clutter.
- 9) A brand new `Visitation Manager` included for placing `Requests` to families for visitations to be done with pre visit and post visit notes.
- 10) Many new report options, including adding alphabetical separators in the reports, changing the text formatting of all standard reports, including a background image on the report, allowing for a text watermark, report preview.... and more...

This edition of Pastoral Care is the biggest single step in development in its twenty six year history, loaded with new features and improvements to existing features. This edition has set a new standard for church management both within Australia and New Zealand that is affordable for all churches, like all previous editions we have included with Pastoral Care 12 our free multi user license, which means purchase one edition and install it on as many computers as needed within the church.

For New Zealand, we have added a country setup that will allow Pastoral Care to format the address fields correctly to the New Zealand postal rules.

Pastoral Care 12 will operate on Windows XP with SP3, Vista with SP1, Windows 7 and Windows 8