

# People's Manifesto

**ST. MARK**

**You. Me. Us** Shaping the  
Next Five years



# A MESSAGE FROM CARIS DEGANNES



*"St. Mark a parish that no longer waits on anyone — a parish living at the full scale of its potential, impossible to overlook."*

**CARIS DEGANNES**  
CANDIDATE FOR  
ST. MARK



## Dear residents of St. Mark,

Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to listen to residents. This manifesto is unlike any document I have ever put my name to, because I did not write it alone.

Over the past several weeks, I sat and actively listened to residents from every part of our parish — from Diamond, Victoria and Maran in the south to Fountain, Diego Piece, Samaritan and Duquesne in the north, and our St. Mark family living abroad who still call this parish home. We listened, debated, shared ideas, and together identified the challenges that continue to hold St. Mark back and, more importantly, the opportunities that can move us forward. This edition is larger than the first because you made it larger: 212 residents took part across six community sessions, raising 266 priorities that have shaped the plan you now hold in your hands.

Two new sessions changed this document. At Samaritan Presbyterian School, we heard about a bridge quietly being undermined beneath our feet, roads at Charlie Hill and Cowhill that have waited years, and a farming plan for cocoa, nutmeg and banana with real acreage and real numbers attached. At the Maran Community Centre, we heard about twenty unused acres at the Propagation Station, dark roads, a playing field full of holes, a harbour at Bay Road that ships once used, and children who want to learn to play pan. Every one of those voices is in the pages that follow.

For far too long, St. Mark has been spoken about as Grenada's smallest parish, one that has often been overlooked. I reject the idea that our size should limit our future. I see a parish rich in history, blessed with fertile lands, hardworking people, vibrant communities, and opportunities that have simply waited too long to be unlocked. Our size does not define our potential — our people do.

This manifesto is therefore more than a list of promises. It is a shared vision, built from your voices and grounded in your priorities. As your next Member of Parliament, I make one commitment above all others: I will be present. I will listen. I will work tirelessly alongside you to turn these ideas into reality.

Together, we will make St. Mark a parish that no longer waits on anyone — a parish living at the full scale of its potential, impossible to overlook.

**Caris DeGannes**  
**CANDIDATE FOR ST. MARK**

# Where We Listened

# SIX SESSIONS, SIX POLLING DIVISIONS, ONE PARISH.

8 JULY

**Resource Centre**

Emergency services, idle lands, and a parish master plan.

14 JULY

**Coast Guard Preschool**

Lighting, the cemetery, sport beyond football, and an absent representative.

21 JULY

**Non Pariel**

Literacy, the pasture drain, and promises never kept.

16 JULY

**St. Mark Secondary**

Fish prices, cold storage, a jetty, and export markets.

22 JULY

**Samaritan Presbyterian School**

Chapel Bridge, Charlie Hill and Cowhill roads, poultry, and farm finance.

28 JULY

**Maran Community Centre**

Idle acres, dark spots, drainage, Bay Road harbour, and a pan house.

# WHAT 266 PRIORITIES WERE ABOUT

Residents rated every priority they raised. The average came back at 4.7 out of 5, with 204 of the 266 priorities rated five stars – the highest urgency the exercise allows. Only two items across the whole parish were rated two stars or below.





A low-angle shot of a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a bright yellow t-shirt, with her arms raised high in the air. She is smiling broadly, looking upwards. The background is a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

**GRENADA'S SMALLEST  
PARISH, LIVING AT  
THE FULL SCALE OF ITS  
POTENTIAL — IMPOSSIBLE  
TO OVERLOOK.**

# OUR VISION FOR ST MARK

St. Mark may be Grenada's smallest parish, but it never lacked greatness. What it lacks is the investment, attention, and opportunity it deserves.

Within our borders stand the island's highest mountain; the ancient petroglyphs of Duquesne, La Source and River Sallee, carved long before our written history; one of the oldest bridges in the Caribbean at Non Pariel; a harbour at Bay Road that once shipped Tufton Hall produce to the world; fertile lands that powered Grenada's cocoa and nutmeg economy; a coastline that has sustained generations of fisherfolk; and sunsets that stop visitors in their tracks. Few places possess so much. Few have been asked to do so much with so little.

Now imagine St. Mark operating at that full scale. A coast that earns, where our fisherfolk land, process, and export their catch under the St. Mark name. Land that produces, where Bocage and the Maran Propagation Station work again and the products of our soil become chocolate, cashew, nectar and mango confections made in St. Mark, not simply grown here. A parish the world comes to experience, where the Carib Stones, the Non Pariel Bridge, Duquesne Bay, the Mt. St. Catherine trail and a vibrant Victoria waterfront form one heritage and eco-tourism trail. A generation equipped, from primary literacy to a pan house, a library, and a talent academy. And a parish that protects and serves its people at home.

This vision is not borrowed from another country. It is not the product of consultants or political slogans. The people of St. Mark wrote it in six village halls over one month.



## PILLAR 1

# SERVICES HERE AT HOME

St. Mark residents deserve essential services closer to home. Our focus is on improving access to emergency response, healthcare, policing and government services so residents can get the help they need without having to leave the parish.

## WE WILL

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YEAR 1   | Provide a dedicated ambulance and multi-purpose fire and water truck stationed in Victoria,                                                                                                    |
| YEAR 1   | Open a constituency office with published hours, a concerns hotline, and a private room — so no one discusses family business at the roadside.                                                 |
| YEAR 1   | Introduce 24/7 nurse shift systems at the Victoria and Union medical stations.                                                                                                                 |
| YEAR 1   | Move Victoria Police Station to 24/7 operations with assigned transport.                                                                                                                       |
| YEAR 1   | Establish a One-Stop Government Office at the old Nutmeg Pool so residents can pay bills and access key public services without leaving the parish.                                            |
| YEAR 1   | Establish a dedicated residents' hotline to strengthen emergency response and ensure community concerns are addressed quickly.                                                                 |
| YEAR 1   | Introduce monthly mobile health clinics in Maran, Fountain, Duquesne and other underserved communities to bring essential healthcare services closer to residents.                             |
| YEAR 1–2 | Expand and adequately staff the Union Health Centre to improve patient care, reduce waiting times, and provide a safe, comfortable waiting area so no patient is left waiting on the roadside. |
| YEAR 1   | Work with NAWASA to improve the water supply in Fountain, and support rainwater harvesting and household solar systems to help residents maintain essential services during heavy.             |
| YEAR 2   | Introduce regular dental clinics in the parish and partner with private healthcare providers to establish a medical imaging centre.                                                            |



## PILLAR 2

# SAFE ROADS, STABLE HILLSIDES

Residents across St. Mark face road, drainage, lighting and land stability challenges that affect everyday safety. Our focus is on safer, more resilient infrastructure that improves access, protects communities and reduces risks across the parish.

## WE WILL

### YEAR 1

Clear and maintain the pasture drain in Non Paniel to eliminate the health hazard near the preschool, and construct the additional drains residents identified to improve drainage and reduce flooding.

### YEAR 1-2

Commission engineering and stabilisation works to net the loose rock faces residents named for the La Source hillside and Fall Edge, with interim barriers.

### YEAR 1-2

Installation of street lighting and a designated turning area at Charlie Hill to improve road safety and accessibility.

### YEAR 1-2

Rehabilitate Silver River and Fountain Road and fix the drains of Upper Waltham, Maran and Fountain. Prioritising the reconstruction of these long-neglected roads, including Cowhill, Charlie Hill, Pan Cup, Bethel and Mt. Cini.

### YEAR 1-2

Audit and upgrade every bridge in the parish, starting with Samaritan, which connects two parishes on the main road.

### YEAR 1-2

Assess, upgrade, and maintain the by-roads that keep us connected in emergencies — Diamond to Gouyave, Non Paniel to Deigo Piece, Resource, Waltham to Castle Hill, Bopland to Doctor Bell — and extend the Maran by-roads onto a single back road.

### YEAR 1

Install solar street lighting across Coast Guard, the Maran dark spots, and the road to the Maran Community Centre.

### YEAR 1

Work with the Traffic Department to assess blind spots and identify high-risk areas requiring speed humps, improved signage, and other road safety measures.

### YEAR 1

Clear fallen trees and landslide debris from the Mt. St. Catherine access roads and implement a regular maintenance programme to ensure safe and reliable access.

### YEAR 1

Encourage local contractors to register to improve access to employment opportunities and promote consistent hiring within the constituency.

### YEAR 2

Assess suitable buildings to establish two certified, equipped hurricane shelters for the parish, with water storage and working facilities.



### PILLAR 3

## A WORKING COAST

Fishing remains an important source of livelihoods and economic activity in St. Mark. Improving fishing infrastructure, providing cold storage and secure boat facilities, and developing coastal access, will help strengthen the fishing industry, increase incomes and create new opportunities for our fisherfolk.

Here is what we will do:

### WE WILL

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YEAR 1   | Re-register the St Mark Fishing Co-operative, and facilitate NIS registration for fisherfolk to improve access to social security benefits and support.                                                                           |
| YEAR 1   | Explore opportunities to export locally caught fish to neighbouring Caribbean countries, including Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, to expand market access and create new income opportunities for local fisherfolk.              |
| YEAR 1–2 | Modernise the Waltham Fish Market by installing industrial cold storage facilities, upgrading bathroom amenities and expanding drainage infrastructure to improve sanitation, preserve fish quality and support local fisherfolk. |
| YEAR 1   | Designate a boat-repair facility and restore safe, unobstructed beach access for residents.                                                                                                                                       |
| YEAR 1   | Install lighting and introduce regular patrols along the fishing beach to protect boats, engines, and other fishing equipment from theft.                                                                                         |
| YEAR 1–2 | Commission an environmental and engineering study of the old Bay Road harbour between St. Mark and St. John, and develop a road connecting Bay Road to Maran Bay to improve coastal access for residents.                         |
| YEAR 2   | Construct shared cold storage and an ice plant beside the Maran centre for fish, fruit and vegetables                                                                                                                             |
| YEAR 2–3 | Explore the establishment of a fishing and seamanship school to equip young people with the skills and training to pursue careers in the fishing industry                                                                         |
| YEAR 3   | Construct a jetty at a suitable location in St. Mark to support fishing and commercial activities and provide a safe assembly point following a disaster.                                                                         |



## PILLAR 4

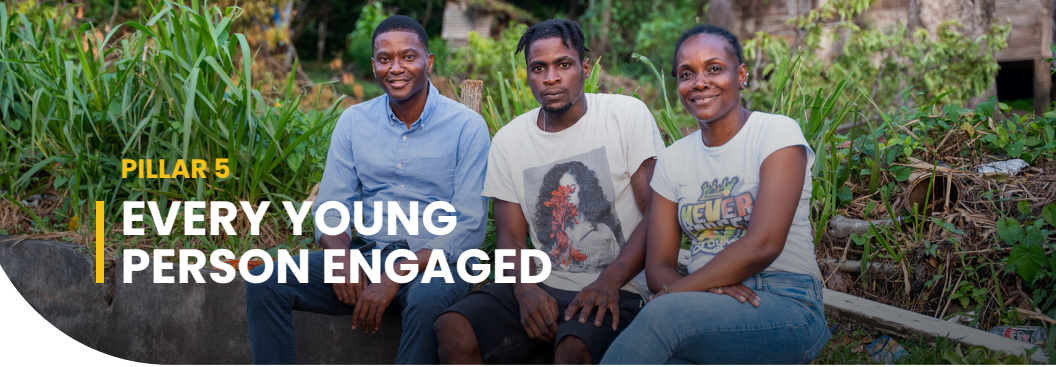
# LAND BACK TO WORK

Agriculture has long been central to St. Mark's economy and livelihoods. Revitalising unused agricultural lands, expanding access to financing and investing in crop and livestock production can restore farming as a major source of employment and economic opportunity. With greater support for farmers, we can rebuild a productive and thriving agricultural sector.

Here is what we will do:

### WE WILL

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YEAR 1   | Audit unused government lands in St. Mark, including Maran and Bocage, and develop a clear plan for their productive use.                                                                                     |
| YEAR 1   | Revitalize the Maran Propagation Station under new management, restoring agricultural production and providing residents with affordable produce through monthly community sales                              |
| YEAR 1-2 | Establish an agriculture training centre and youth farming programme at Bocage Estate                                                                                                                         |
| YEAR 1-3 | Launch a cocoa, nutmeg and banana rehabilitation programme — acreage set for each crop, expected yields published, and the returns shared with the farmers who grow them                                      |
| YEAR 1   | Engage the Grenada Development Bank (GDB) to establish a dedicated agricultural financing programme with affordable loans and flexible repayment terms tailored to farmers' needs.                            |
| YEAR 1-3 | Explore the development of a poultry industry in St. Mark to increase local production, create employment opportunities and reduce dependence on imports.                                                     |
| YEAR 1-2 | Establish an agro-processing cooperative and fruit-processing facility to turn locally grown produce into value-added products and create new income opportunities.                                           |
| YEAR 1-4 | Organise cocoa farmers into a co-operative to supply St. Mark's two chocolate factories, creating greater value from locally grown cocoa through chocolate production rather than the sale of raw beans alone |
| YEAR 1-2 | Rehabilitate the Belair, Belfountain, Bethel and Maran feeder roads to improve access to farmlands and support agricultural production.                                                                       |
| YEAR 1   | Launch 'Buy St Mark' village market to connect local farmers directly with residents and encourage the purchase of produce grown within the parish.                                                           |
| YEAR 2-3 | Engage potential investors to develop St. Mark's quarry and explore opportunities to bottle locally sourced spring water, creating jobs and reducing dependence on imports.                                   |



## PILLAR 5

# EVERY YOUNG PERSON ENGAGED

Our young people need better sporting facilities, safe recreational spaces and more opportunities to develop their talents and skills. We must also do more to engage young men and help them play an active role in their communities.

Here is what we will do:

### WE WILL

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YEAR 1   | Explore the introduction of appropriate mental health support services in schools and community centres, including counselling and trauma-informed interventions for young people.                                   |
| YEAR 1   | Develop community-based literacy programmes to improve reading and writing skills among primary school students, ensuring children build a strong foundation for learning.                                           |
| YEAR 1-2 | Explore adult literacy and computer training programmes to equip parents with the skills to support their children's education.                                                                                      |
| YEAR 1-2 | Establish a Youth Talent Academy offering training in sports, music, vocational skills, artificial intelligence and technology.                                                                                      |
| YEAR 1-2 | Upgrade the football field and pavilion; cover and create seating at the basketball court; develop a safe playing field in Non Pariel and restore the Maran playing field with changing rooms and spectator seating. |
| YEAR 1   | Expand sporting opportunities to include swimming, tennis, table tennis, archery and athletics, supported by a structured programme to identify and develop young talent.                                            |
| YEAR 1-2 | Construct a pan house in Maran and expand music education and training opportunities across the parish.                                                                                                              |
| YEAR 1-2 | Repurpose the resource centre into a community learning hub, incorporating a public library and access to digital learning resources.                                                                                |
| YEAR 1-2 | Create an after-school vocational training centre and introduce Saturday lessons and summer programmes in community centres across the parish.                                                                       |
| YEAR 1-2 | Construct community play parks and green spaces equipped with swings, seating and safe walking paths for residents of all ages.                                                                                      |
| YEAR 1   | Improve the school feeding programme and introduce annual vision and hearing screenings to identify and support children with additional learning and development needs.                                             |
| YEAR 1   | Create a St Mark scholarship and skills-grant fund to support education and vocational training, alongside paid summer employment opportunities for older secondary school students.                                 |



## PILLAR 6

# ST MARK ON THE MAP

St. Mark is rich in natural beauty, history and culture, from our ancient petroglyphs and historic Waltham Bridge to Mt. St. Catherine, our waterfall, stunning sunsets and Duquesne Bay. Yet these attractions remain underdeveloped, with too few opportunities for residents to benefit from tourism. With better facilities and investment, we can develop our attractions, support local businesses and create more opportunities for our people.

Here is what we will do:

### WE WILL

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YEAR 1   | Clarify land ownership around Duquesne Bay to guide future development and investment.                                                                                                                            |
| YEAR 1   | Improve national tourism signage to increase St. Mark's visibility and promote its attractions.                                                                                                                   |
| YEAR 1   | Introduce a comprehensive road-naming system to improve navigation and ensure homes and businesses are easily accessible to visitors, delivery services and emergency responders.                                 |
| YEAR 1-3 | Develop Duquesne Bay into a recreational and tourism destination, with improved visitor facilities, a park, a sporting court, and designated craft booths at the lookout.                                         |
| YEAR 1-2 | Preserve and promote the Carib Stones at La Source, River Sallee, and Duquesne through improved site protection, interpretive displays and signage, including the restoration of the Manface Stone's inscription. |
| YEAR 2-3 | Develop guided hiking routes to Mt. St. Catherine and the parish's waterfalls, including an assessment of zip-line opportunities and a competitive tender for tourism concessions.                                |
| YEAR 2-3 | Construct a riverside promenade and sunset viewing areas in Victoria, complemented by coastal coconut planting to enhance the appeal of Sunset City.                                                              |
| YEAR 2   | Revitalise the Nutmeg Museum through cultural performances, establish museums dedicated to Traditional Mas and Vieux Corps, and create a St. Mark history and research centre to preserve the parish's heritage.  |
| YEAR 1-2 | Support the conversion of vacant homes and unused residential spaces into short-term tourism accommodation, creating additional income opportunities for property owners.                                         |
| YEAR 1-2 | Create a designated vending area in northern St. Mark to provide local entrepreneurs with opportunities to sell their products and benefit directly from visitor activity.                                        |



## PILLAR 7

# A COMMUNITY THAT SHOWS UP

Stronger, more connected communities require accessible leadership, improved community facilities and greater opportunities for participation. By revitalising community spaces and making better use of existing facilities, we can build more active, vibrant communities across St. Mark.

Here is what we will do:

## WE WILL

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FIRST 100 DAYS | Hold monthly Village Representative Sessions, with a designated representative from every village meeting directly with the constituency MP to raise community concerns and track progress. |
| FIRST 100 DAYS | Reinstate quarterly town hall meetings, rotating across villages to provide residents with regular opportunities to engage directly with their representative.                              |
| YEAR 1         | Launch breakfast programme for students in need and regular welfare checks to support elderly residents.                                                                                    |
| YEAR 1         | Support the Maran Human Resource Development Centre through improved management, maintenance and programmes tailored to the needs of the community.                                         |
| YEAR 1-2       | Assess community centres across the parish to identify facilities requiring reopening, renovation or expansion to better serve residents.                                                   |
| YEAR 1         | Engage the community and focus groups to restart women's organisations, revamp the Carnival Committee, and support local musicians in showcasing St.Mark's cultural heritage nationally.    |
| YEAR 1         | Initiate a St.Mark Think Tank to bring together residents, community leaders, and professionals to contribute ideas and recommendations to the parish's development plan.                   |
| YEAR 2         | Explore establishing a parish gym and dedicated exercise facilities to promote physical activity and community wellness.                                                                    |



**AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE  
WITH HOPE AND CONFIDENCE,  
WE DO SO STANDING ON THE  
WORK, SACRIFICE AND SERVICE  
OF THOSE WHO HELPED BRING  
US THIS FAR.**





# TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

**A PLAN ONLY MATTERS IF  
PEOPLE CAN SEE WHAT IS  
BEING DELIVERED.**

The People's Manifesto will not end with its publication. We will use it as a working document to track the commitments made to your community over the next five years.

We will review progress against the priorities identified in the manifesto, with updates showing what has been completed, what is underway, and what still requires attention.

This will give residents a clear way to follow the work, see how priorities are advancing, and understand where progress is being made.

**YOU HELPED SHAPE THE PLAN. YOU SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE  
TO SEE HOW IT IS BEING DELIVERED.**



## **Online Progress Tracker**

A dedicated website will list the commitments in the manifesto and show the status of each one — including what has been completed, what is in progress, and what is still to come.



## **Annual Community Review**

Each year, we will return to the community to review progress, discuss what has been delivered, and hear directly from residents on what still needs attention.



# YOU. NOW. SHAPING THE FUTURE IN FIVE YEARS





# ME. US THE NEXT YEARS



# ST MARK

Thank you for your voices - all seven hundred  
and seventeen of them.

**You. Me. US. Ready for More.**



visit us at

**[www.ndcgrenada.org](http://www.ndcgrenada.org)**

