

Feedback from Parish Synod Meeting – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 8 PM in the Parish Centre.

1. More targeted outreach and welcome to those on the margins.

Targeted support/action for people who feel excluded or 'lonely' in church.

Welcome groups to reach out to the various groups on the margins – have a point of contact for them. Establish links. Build bridges.

How do we reach out to the community?

How do we bring the immigrant population into the overall parish family?

Welcoming all new people in the parish.

To engage other targeted groups to come to Mass.

Intergenerational, intercultural events/invitations.

Integration with our different communities.

People like coming – feel welcomed when they come from other parishes.

Welcome back appeal to pre-pandemic parishioners. Getting our pre-Covid church community back post-Covid. Feel we need to make a big effort to reach out to those we already know, who for many reasons, have not yet returned. They may think that they have not been missed! Maintenance so we can be Mission!

2. Community building.

Days out.

Lunches soup and a roll.

3. Faith formation.

Spiritual development.

Jesus being central, number 1 word!

Adult formation. Exegesis/theology.

Life in the Spirit seminar.

Perhaps more deep reading of scripture?

Reflect on Pope Francis' words re-synod. "Without the wisdom of discernment, we can easily become prey to every passing trend" Pope Francis". Think we need to reflect on this before changing anything!

Parish retreats that fit all age ranges.

After Covid perhaps new 'training' in the meaning and purpose of the Holy Mass.

New scripture Group for beginners – on- going adult formation – maybe start a separate scripture group for beginners. More might take up the opportunity of a new start- up together rather than joining a very established existing group. Though may need one of them to lead!

Support for every age group in the parish spiritually and socially. Too much concentration on attracting young people and their families and supporting the elderly, may obscure provision of on-going formation for "middle-aged" parishioners, often now grandparents, who have a massive influence on their family's interest in the church if they've been well equipped for the task. This group are always asked to provide help but are not being nourished themselves

#### 4, Social Justice/outreach.

Bi-annual program for less well-off people – St Peter's helpers – feeding -supportive friends.

Joined up activities across age groups and communities e.g., feeding people. Supporting refugees.

Opportunities for Youth engagement in social justice (Youth St Peter's helpers) Communicated clearly. Faith in Action.

Groups working together e.g., Youth and SVP running lunches for people of a certain age!

Do we need to improve social development of children after 2-3 years of Covid?

## 5. Participation

We need more ways to allow people to volunteer.

Open day - Groups offering open day to show what they do, welcome and engage wider community.

Keep going with participation - "St Peter's bucks the trend" (visiting priest remark to parishioner – our parish growing with sense of energy whilst other places in decline.)

Discipling people more than sacramentalising them.  
Continue to make disciples after Alpha/other involvement.

## 6. Liturgy and involvement.

When are eucharistic ministers coming back?

More altar servers

Benediction.

More traditional services e.g., Benediction.

Great that all music groups have been kept following the loss of 11.30 Mass.

Is there an age or can there be a definitive age when children go back to Mass in church as Sunday obligation has now returned **for all?**

Sacramental programs – Confirmation – going out and inviting children. How do we get them in and keep them?

Restart recruitment and training for all ministries/welcomers/eucharistic ministers. Need to clarify and start up different ministries again post Covid. Eucharistic ministers have been needed less, as we are not receiving the chalice. Stewards became welcomers through sanitising duties. People took up the readers role. Encourage those people to become involved again and new

people to be welcomed too ministries. New rotas to include all who want to be included on a regular basis, not just ad hoc on the day.

Recruitment and training for altar servers. We need to establish the Guild of St Stephen/training for Altar servers and really encourage young people especially those who have made their First Communion to be involved in this ministry. It also provides opportunities for a young people's social group to develop around this ministry.

### 7. Children and Families.

Bring church to school through TOAST (Time on A Sunday Together) and SPY.

TOAST retreat in both schools.

Bring TOAST into schools for a day.

More families' days – create safe spaces to step in.

Practical ways to involve families that allow for busy lives.

Family events to welcome new families to help engage with the community.

Toddler group.

### 8. Youth.

Activities to attract young people not by obligation but by invitation – 12-14 yrs. 15-21yrs, 21- 25yrs

Older youth/uni activities.

Paid youth/family worker. (Microphone suggestion)

Formation for people to be youth leaders. (microphone)

Faith in Action initiative (A faith-based programme like Duke of Edinburgh – volunteering and parish involvement) (microphone)

Invite Toast parents to 'Pints and Praise'. (microphone)

## 9. Decision making.

Transparency in decision making. If as a parish community we are journeying together, democratically and harmoniously, there needs to be transparency in our parish decision making process. The PPT should publish meeting dates, agenda, minutes etc. Input and feedback should be welcomed from all the parish community i.e., discerning together through the Holy Spirit, not just a select group of non-elected individuals.

PPT Identified to the parish – Would help if current PPT could identify themselves to the parish community. We used to have photo/names in the porch and info as to which Mass they usually attended.

It appears that our church is following the 'Divine Renovation' model of parish for current changes re sacramental programmes, children's liturgy initiatives, music and everything else. Shouldn't this model/vision be made clear to our parish community to discuss? Have we become a Divine Renovation parish?

## 10. Ecumenism.

Do we pursue Churches Together as we sometimes did before Covid?  
Churches together?

Local outreach. Ecumenical initiatives.