

Plenary Discussions Record

Saint Michael's Parish, Traralgon, Victoria... Diocese of Sale

December 8, 2018



Plenary Council 2020

'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...' REV 2:7

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

Details of the initial Plenary whole Parish Meeting

June 17th, 2018 ... held in the hall... 2pm – 4pm

Approximately 80 parishioners in attendance

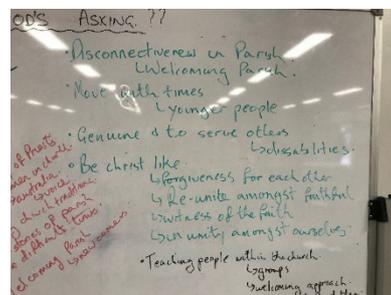
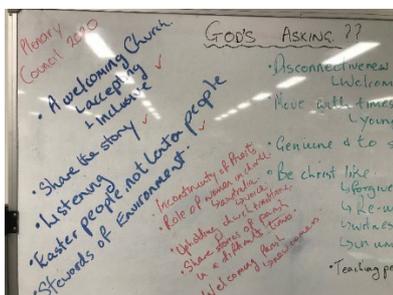
After a simple introduction of the purpose and process of the Plenary Council in 2020 the parishioners present were asked to engage in the “Read & Reflect, Share and Listen” process with a focus on the following question: **What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**

- Parishioners reflected quietly on this question and recorded their thoughts on individual pieces of paper
- In small clusters of 5 or 6 they shared aloud with each other all the responses they had written down
- A roving microphone was passed to each group in turn and a spokesperson shared the major points raised from the group. Extra points were added by other members of the group where necessary.
- A scribe captured the major points being raised from each group and these were recorded on a whiteboard or on butcher’s paper for all to see.
- Important responses deemed outside the realm of the set question were recorded in a “Parking Lot” to be dealt with in the forthcoming Parish Forum... a more appropriate place for discernment.

This process took nearly an hour and a half

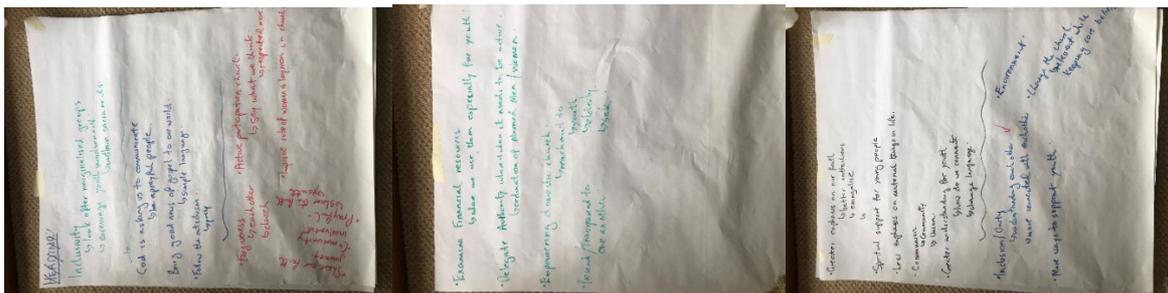
The Capture! Stage One

What We Think God Is Asking!



- A welcoming Church... accepting and welcoming
- Share the story

- Listening
- Easter people, not Lenten people
- Stewards of the environment
- In continuity of Priests
- Role of women in church ... Australia... voice
- Upholding church traditions
- Share stories of parish in a difficult time
- Welcoming newcomers to the parish
- Disconnectedness in the parish (Welcoming parish)
- Move with the times (Young people)
- Genuine and to service others ... disabilities
- Be Christlike: forgiveness for each other, witness of faith, unity amongst ourselves
- Teaching people within the church... groups... welcoming approach... find them



- Inclusivity... look after marginalised groups... encourage youth, within sacraments
- To communicate... be a prayerful people
- Bring the Good News of the Gospel to our world... in simple language
- Follow the catechism... pray
- To forgiveness of others and the church
- Active participation (in the) church... say what we think... respected more
- Improve the role of women in the church
- Share our faith journey... community involved
- Prayerful... share the faith (with) Youth
- Greater emphasis on our faith... better catechesis... evangelise
- Spiritual support for young people

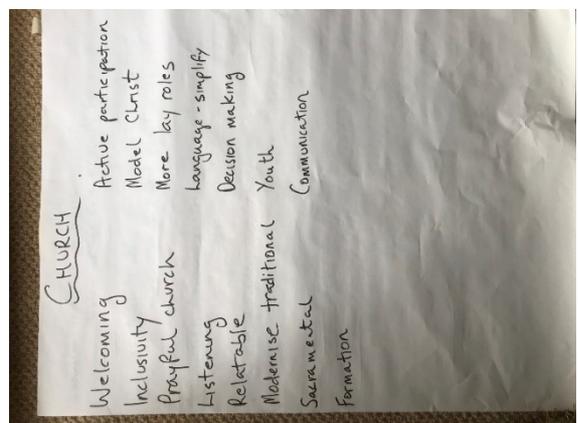
- Less emphasis on the material things of life
- Communion.... Community... union
- Greater understanding for youth... how do we connect?... change the language
- Inclusion/Unity.... Understanding each other... more connect(ion) with each other
- More ways to support youth
- Environment
- Change the church... relevant while keeping core beliefs
- Examine financial resources... where we use them, especially for youth
- Delegate authority where and when it needs to be active... ordination of married men/women
- Empowering domestic church... reach out to youth, elderly, sick
- Present & transparent to each other.

The Capture! Stage Two

This was the time to focus on one aspect of the capture that seemed to be the most paramount in the minds of those gathered.

The suggestion from the scribe was the heading of **Church**. From him and from the floor came the following aspects of where we saw the call of God for the church:

- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Prayerful
- Listening
- Relatable
- Modern (culturally relevant)
- Sacramental
- Formative
- Active (Full, active & conscious participation)
- Modelled on Christ
- Varied & multiple lay roles

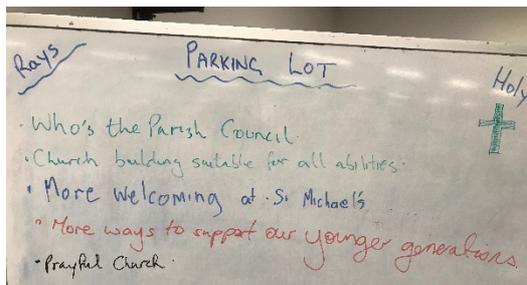


- **Use of simple language**
- Decision making?
- **Youth oriented**
- **Communication is open & transparent**

It is clear from this list that we were mainly focusing on our experience of our own parish community. There is a real sense that a critical eye has been cast upon our own lived experience and where we can strengthen what may already be happening at Saint Michael's. It is almost certain that what has been isolated here could well be overlaid upon other parishes in our diocese and, indeed, in other places across Australia, particularly our attention to our young people.

Parking Lot

Topics considered at the time to be dealt with at a later stage



- **Who's the Parish Council?**
- **Church building suitable for all abilities**
- **More welcoming at Saint Michael's**
- **More ways to support our younger generations**

- **Pray(er)ful church**

Details of small group follow-up Plenary Meetings

Luncheon Plenary Meetings

1st Luncheon Discussion Sept 11th

Present: 5 parishioners

Discussion Points

- We must see ourselves as Christian the worldwide church... and as large **C** Catholics second... a part of the 'Body of Christ'.
- The universality of the church can then be seen as **unified diversity** (the term used by Pope Francis) with the Catholic Church having equal dignity with sister churches



first... part of

- The Catholic Church as an institution needs to be subsumed as a model and a more organic, authentic and spiritually alive model of church needs to be built: eg. *the church as 'community', 'servant', 'prophet', etc*
- Such a different emphasis on what is important to build (as in a church that is prophetic) rather than maintain (such as institutional structures) will be dependent on the spiritual and faith formation of the members of the parish community. Thus adult formation is crucial.
- Family Life is also bolstered by such re-direction of the model of church and the formation of spiritual literacy. Parents might more easily negotiate the questions that arise in modern family life if they have the opportunities for deepening understandings and strengthening faith. Their task of helping to develop a 'Christian Moral Compass' is enhanced.

2nd Luncheon Discussion Sept 17th St Michael's Traralgon

Present: 7 parishioners

Discussion Points... following on from the meeting of Sept 11th

- Some of the things we hear God calling us to do and be are practical aspects of church life that we (individually and collectively) have power to shape and change. We need to move from a stance where we might demand *what the church can do for us* to a posture of heart where we can demonstrate with our own giftedness *what we can do for the church*. **We must become the change we want to see.** What followed was a discussion on how we might be that change:
 - Become a welcomer at the door.... Speak to parents of babies who are being presented for baptism... praise the musicians... congratulate the youth initiatives... take time for the elderly
- There is a sense of disappointment that the **"Called and Gifted"** program, which was engaged with full flourish, has not blossomed amongst us.
- We must focus on the gospel of Jesus and it's challenge. There is a real need to use appropriate language (simple was the term used) as many do not understand the complexities of the text. To enliven our communities we need to **preach the gospel... values and worship follow on.**
- *(In our early parish discussion, parishioners talked about being welcoming)* It has taken someone new to the parish to use the word **judged**. Divorced and same sex attracted people (and others who have a sense they do not follow the accepted "rules" of the church) can feel ill at ease and judged for their choices. There was a real sense of understanding in the group that the shift to person centred moral judgement allied with pastoral considerations is a Christ-like approach. The following

quote mentioned by one of the group chastened and heartened us all: **Every saint has a past... every sinner has a future.**

- Unless people feel comfortable amongst us they can't move on. Our own 'hang-ups' and misconceptions can be a real impediment in our relationships with others.

At the end of the meeting, having thought about our purpose and having listened to one another, each person wrote an answer to the question: *What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?*

- Walk humbly... love one another... be Christ-like... accept people where they are at
- Listen
- Forgiving and more accepting
- Be a welcoming body
- Be a living Church for all
- Hear the good news of the Gospel... to live it... to share it

3rd Luncheon Discussion Sept 25th St Michael's Traralgon

Present: 3 parishioners

Discussion Points: Following on from the two previous meetings

- A welcoming community includes the environmental parameters of the worship space as well as any interpersonal communication. There is a need to have ample space for motorised wheelchairs, prams and other ambulatory devices as well as suitable seating in such a specified area. This will avoid any health and safety issues with devices impeding aisles and doorways in other parts of the congregational area.
- There is also a need to make sure the language we use is suitable for the audience...not only our choice of words but also our body language. Clear amplification is also critical and added attention needs to be paid to those who have hearing devices. Thus any 'hearing loop' needs to be well placed and operational.
- There is a need to stress that the gratuitous love and forgiveness of God far outweighs the seriousness of our own sinfulness. How wonderful to hear this good news proclaimed in our assemblies. What better way than to make use of the Third Rite of Reconciliation on regular basis in our parish.
- Whilst no one program can cater to all our needs for building up the parish community we can look for gaps where specific groups might be enhanced by activating a particular program. For example 'Alpha'... for evangelisation... and for

young children and parents (mainly young mums) there is a program called 'Mainly Music' which offers a curriculum based Christian musical play environment as well as a community welcoming to parents. It would be good to bring this program forward for consideration to supplement the Baptism and Sacramental programs already in existence.

Afternoon Tea

Plenary Meetings

October 10th

Present: 3 parishioners

Discussion: the discussion took off very easily and ranged over a number of topics that were important or surfaced as the dialogue moved along

- It was felt that there is a general assumption that it is family groups that are gathered for parish Eucharist and events. We should be conscious of family types... not everyone gathered are married couples or parents with children. Some think that their status, whether single, divorced or widowed, is somewhat less worthy – bronze medal winners, it was described.
- People can feel excluded because of their sexuality... gay people need a place to be encouraged. We may have become too 'middle class' and people from the margins of society, those spun to the edge, socially labelled 'the poor' feel excluded and that there is no place for them.
- With regards the sexual abuse crisis, bishops need to apologise to the ordinary Catholics who have trusted, admired and looked up to them only to feel ashamed of what has happened. It is now a constant apology to claim the church in public and amongst friends.
- The group would celebrate and welcome married clergy as well as serious consideration of the ordination of women
- Investigate the children and young parents program called '**Mainly Music**' which operates in some other local churches. It is a program designed at social cohesion for young families.

What is God asking of us in Australia today?

- Openness and acceptance to all people, especially those who feel on the outer
- Married priests



- To let go of many of the traditions and 'laws' which are man made and are used to control and inhibit the laity
- To become more ecumenical in our practices and outlook
- To think deeply and seriously about the 'divide' in our parish communities

Jesus is humble and kind and non-judgemental. He does not demand attention, he invites us to follow as we are. He loves our differences

Maria... after attending a Social Justice Conference in Melbourne

October 16th

Present: 5 parishioners

The details of the last afternoon tea discussion was tabled and a discussion took off easily from there. The following points were made:

- Church interior design and fixtures need to be user friendly to an ageing population, young families and especially those with prams and other devices such as wheelchairs.
- There was a discussion about the relevance of priestly vestments. Someone asked a member of the groups recently, "Why do priests frock up"? This begs the question of how relevant are some of our established church habits and traditions. Perhaps there is a need to 'trim down' again as we did after the Vatican Council. There was a sense in the group that whilst liturgical vestments and priestly attire have an important function there can be a tendency for such garments can also separate functionaries from the people they are meant to relate to.
- The Laity need to be trained and strengthen in the co-responsible leadership roles that are emerging. There is inequality in the dignity given to the different roles of clergy, religious and laity in the church. Indeed, "the laity need to be given their head' was a comment from the group.
- There is a need for a mature look at the married clergy. The group spoke of men they know who would have pursued a married priestly role in parish ministry.
- The sacramental life is still very much alive through the agency of the school and parish ministries. Parents are bringing their children for Baptism and supporting the Reconciliation and Eucharist programs. But for some this support is tenuous. The football lover was used as an analogy. **People enjoy the footy but they don't join the club.** The parents want to belong to something bigger than themselves (they have a sense that the church is life giving) but they don't want to be part of the day to day life of the church. **So, what do was do for families between baptism and school?** Where are the Young Mothers' clubs, the Majellan Club? Where are the opportunities for young families for **social cohesion and connection?**

We need to be alert to what is needed and adapt to change

- Parish Councils need to engage in long term strategic plans to accommodate the growing and changing needs of our parishes. It is actually the Parish Council who is the constant in a lot of parish situations. A bishop may need to appoint a new parish priest for any number of sound reasons. **Who needs to be the keeper of the vision?** Clearly, the Parish Council must gather the new parish priest into the established culture. They must then work together to shape the future not start again.
- The role of the local Catholic Primary School and its relationship to the liturgical and evangelising nature of the parish needs to be kept to the forefront. Patterns of co-operation and leadership need to be continually nurtured and strengthened.
- We must evangelise first and then catechise
- There is a need to work on bridging the generation gap between 'us oldies' and 'young people'
- We must all be responsible for one another in the church community

What is God asking of us in Australia today?

- To be more attuned to today's world & adapt to make our parishes meet the needs of people of all ages
- To make his church more acceptable to all without changing the doctrine
- Find the gaps in our local faith community and look for opportunities to build cohesion and connections that lead to faith
- Empowering the Body of Christ... even to inverting the power pyramid... changing the shape.
- To be more open to changes for the purpose of renewal

October 24th

Present: 7 parishioners

The details of the last afternoon tea discussion was tabled and a discussion took off easily from there. The following points were made:

- In the parish there is a resistance to meeting new people. To make others feel part of the community we must ask people to be part of the activities.
- We are not a social club – there is a sacramental nature to the church community
- There was a general consensus that people in the wider community are 'distracted' by the rich variety that the world has to offer. Also, there is a sense that God is not necessary in the "I can do this" world. People, especially the young, feel empowered and have no need for God.

- We need to give people an ‘experience’ of God... eg Youth Mass. Parents who bring their kids to this **feel** the presence of the holy in the sacramental nature of the church celebrations.
- We need to have an ‘incident’ or a ‘light bulb moment’ in our faith journey
- There are **Biblical truths** and there are **Man made** rules. We need to discern **What Jesus Would Do**.
- We need to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches... and be open to possibilities
- Prayer is necessary! We need to ask God for help to be open to surprise.
- **Recommendation:** Meetings to pray for the Plenary Council... Wednesday 11am & after mass on Sunday

What is God asking of us in Australia today?

- Stay open... keep what is good... move forward, slowly – still looking ahead. Be true to ourselves
- Be humble like little children and trust in God’s guidance
- Pray and bring our problems/issues to Him and to be open to allow Him to do his work. Praying to show us ways of bringing God’s Experience to others
- Trust our decision making against Biblical Tradition discerned within the Tradition
- Listen to the heartfelt concerns and experiences of all who choose to share and then discern what changes need to happen

Evening Plenary Session

October 22 Present: 4 parishioners

Discussion: the discussion took off very easily and ranged over a number of topics that were important or surfaced as the dialogue moved along

- Jesus is the centre of everything we do
- We need renewal of our understanding of the sacraments. This learning is not something that finishes at school or in the children’s sacramental program.
- The importance of the grace and blessings of the Eucharist... communion as ‘Bread for the Journey’ ... not as something restricted by our feelings of being unworthy.
- The voice of lay people can be a wider voice and relate the church to the broader community... that sense of co-responsibility.
- We need to have a deeper sense of **being present** to our Catholic tradition and the richness this brings as being part of the universal church

- Exploration of Lectio Divina would be beneficial
- Traditional devotions such as the Rosary can be enhanced by the use of visuals and commentaries... an Aboriginal Rosary
- As a community, Australians are learning more about Aboriginal culture and its richness ... this is having an effect on everyone as we become more accepting and welcoming of other cultures in our multi-cultural settings

What is God asking of us in Australia today?

- Revisit the traditional devotions and re-image them for a new generation
- The importance of co-responsibility of clerical and laity... and how we might do this
- Come forward and welcome

Details of Discussion with Special Interest Groups

Cells Group...

Discussions with our cell groups and from our reflections and of what God is asking of us here is what I have summarised:

Most important part in our lives is receiving of the Eucharist the Mass on Sunday.

To acknowledge the Blessed Sacrament with much reverence and humility.

Faithful to the Gospel/rediscover the Gospel, living it in families, Church and community, put Jesus at the centre of our lives.

Suggestions:

Bible studies, gathering small groups in each other's homes, young and old.

Praying the rosary.

Welcoming the Holy Spirit into our Lives.

Jesus did say he will send an 'advocate'.

Prayer groups.

Praying for conversions, fasting and acknowledging obligation days.

Bring in the richness of the Catholic traditions, feast days and faith formation days.

Authentic catholic instructions/catechism for the children.

The ten commandments.

The sacraments.

Validity of apparitions and testimonies.

Knowing and loving the richness of our faith, listening to one another, trusting one another and JESUS as the epic centre of our lives will be the Welcoming Church

A joyful and hopeful church where our children will grow up in. To stand firm in our faith in all adversaries is to stand together, built unity, evangelise and together face the challenges of the world.

Youth

St Michael's Parish Youth Council 1st November 2018

Brief: Discuss and debrief after Celebrate Youth in the Valley Event, September 16th. Review the Plenary Wall (see below), list all the discussion points/comments. Group ALL the comments into subheadings for further discussion.

Plenary Wall comments – Celebrate you of the Valley Event

September 16th 2018

- Show love and compassion to ALL you meet
- More music like today
- Make Mass include anyone that wants to a part
- Love
- Dancing
- Create more churches so more people can get to them – Corey Year 8
- God wants us to play more beautiful music for him – Alicia
- To be kind and happy always
- To love one another without fear or judgement
- We need to share love between parishioners and youth
- Inclusive – include everyone from all backgrounds
- Clearing up any misconceptions people have. Stereotypical
- Better music

- More gatherings for children to get to know each other
- Louder and better music
- More welcoming environment
- More church events
- Find ways to get teenagers involved
- More modern music played at church, reaching out and creating events to get school children involved in the church
- Female Priests
- Church should include more fellowship ie: coffee and time to meet up after Mass every week.
- Youth worker employed in every Parish
- Unite in Diversity
- This was AWESOME. The choir and others were awesome. The guitarists in the choir
- Don't judge – be welcoming and understanding to everyone of all backgrounds
- Female to be more active in Church
- More fun activities like dancing in the church
- Married Priests
- Treat everyone like you would like to be treated
- More kids getting involved in the Mass
- I like the church
- More youth events
- Updates language – relatable
- Contemporary Christian Music
- To be kind and compassionate to all
- To spread the word of God
- No Judging
- I like how we have pizza
- Youth Choir – get the grade ones back into it
- Get the youth involved
- Better connections with the community and schools

- More youth of the Valley nights
- Welcoming
- Dancing
- Love
- Put a bit more fun into the Mass – act out the gospels/ readings
- More enthusiasm in youth events
- More children participating
- God wants us to have more fun – more discos for youth, more activities
- Unite all branches of Christianity
- Better connections with schools
- More mass
- To be kind and caring and to follow in Gods footsteps
- Include more children
- Children more involved in Churches worldwide
- More chances for youth to meet with elders
- Dancing
- Dancing
- Music
- More children to come to church
- More prayer
- Dancing
- Be happy
- More music
- Church games
- Music
- To look after the world and not destroy it because we only have one
- More female roles - positivity

After reviewing all 70+ responses, the following sub-groups were decided upon:

Changes/updates to Mass- different music, more fun- act out gospels, updated language, more inclusive

Music- more music, more contemporary music, choir to sing at all masses, louder music.

Actions/behaviour- Show love and compassion, be kind, don't judge, be welcoming and inclusive

Things to do- more youth nights, better connections, more chances for youth to meet with elders, more children to come to church, more parish events/fellowship- coffee/tea after mass, married priests and females to be more active in the church.

Once the ideas were grouped and summarised, we looked at which comments were repeated and common to many. There was definitely an emphasis on youth involvement and activities, but this is probably due to the nature of the event where the plenary wall was displayed. As it was a Youth event with lots of music and dancing, this was reflected in many of the responses on the wall. Also, as it was a public forum, teenagers were perhaps uncomfortable putting anything too personal or deep on the wall. The youth council members were then asked, which of these ideas and comments were common to their views and the views of their peers. What do YOU think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

Show love and compassion, quality and acceptance.

Look beyond race, gender and background.

Be welcoming to all, less stand-offish, more open, make people feel welcome

Learn between generations, elders and youth. Less emphasis on the 'young' and the 'old' as separate groups, and focus on sharing our faith journey together.

Take care of all of God's creation, care for animals and the earth, limit our impact and help reduce Climate change.

Uniting the Church- all the different pasts/histories/differences- come together to share and support each others' faiths.

Better communication between parish groups and with our wider community of our events/options/services.

Music- a good balance of new and old, sharing our faith through song, together.,

Make the bible more relatable- plain English- have a description/discussion about what the words mean- especially for younger people- this could be part of Youth Mass training.

Prayer Group

St Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group Traralgon

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

Session 1 - Responses (approx 30 participants)

Live the Gospel message
Live consistent lives that match Jesus' teachings
Heart of the Gospel – be kind
Welcoming, loving, compassionate
Be good examples
Be voice, heart and hands of Jesus
Put faith into action
Sincere testimony in everything we do
'Be Humble and wise as serpents'
Get Back to basics
Deeper faith in Jesus – read and live the Word of God, More prayer, worship, praise and thanks
Strong faith
Teach children the Word of God
Talk about commandments, hell etc
Sundays are currently taken over by sport, etc
Forgiveness needed re sexual abuse
Recognize we are all sinners in need of Jesus
Don't focus on buildings but on community
Don't get stuck in the past
Inclusive, welcome all, including migrants
Need peace and unity in Australia
Share our material blessings
Respect for one another - mutual respect
Fellowship in small groups
Service – use talents of all – evangelizing, teaching, building up
Open to other cultures – brotherhood of love and faith
Unity with all Christians and non Christians
Acceptance of all denominations
New strategies for evangelizing the young
Focus on the young – our kids – point them to Jesus, support them, they are the future of the Church
Make church less boring, more reverent, shorter sermons to reach the young etc. in order to compete with mass media
Tell others about Jesus
No limits
Multicultural priests, Masses etc to cater for people from other countries
Don't ignore Aboriginals, the original Aussies. Invite and involve them

Go where the needs are
Promote the Church in a more professional way
Pray for families and the whole world
Discipleship, not just education and information, and pass it, on especially with kids
Outreach – bring message to all society
People are sacramentalized, not evangelized

Session Two - Synthesizing main points

1. Be Jesus – by our actions, faith, prayer. Live the Gospel and the sacraments. Get back to the basics
 2. Community – welcoming, loving, compassionate, strong community. Unity among Christians ie. other denominations. Inclusive ie. migrants, poor, young and old, etc.
 3. Evangelize – especially the younger generations, the disenfranchised and non Christians
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Because the majority of the parishioners have not shared their initial answer to the great Plenary question an opportunity was offered, at the completion of all these 'pop-up' groups and special interest groups, for them to make a simple one or two line response with sticky notes on a Plenary Poster.

The results follow...



Plenary Wall.



St Michael's Parish Feedback November 24/25... all masses

“What is God asking of the Church in Australia at this time?”

The following pages contain the verbatim feedback from all who placed a sticky note on the Plenary banner last weekend.

Take the time to read what is on the hearts of fellow parishioners at this time in our history

Parishioner responses are recorded verbatim

- Be compassionate... Love thy neighbour
- Love... no discrimination
- Reform the mass language to engage young people
- Open our eyes to the poor
- Info given to the church earlier, not the same week
- To stand united in our faith – to be faithful to our traditions
- For the leaders of the church to consider what Jesus would say today about the laws of the church
- Use media to reach more young people and show how our faith can be supportive in their troubles
- To act justly, to walk humbly, and to outreach and invite others to know God
- We pray that the structure and culture of our Roman curia will support our agreed to outcomes from the 20/20 Plenary Council
- Invite more youths to church... reach out to families
- Let the priest marry... look after the children – forza Sydney F.C.
- That we do our very best to draw our young people into the faith and help them, with God's grace, to build a lifelong relationship with Him
- To be transformed by God's grace so that we can be agents of God's grace
- Allow priest to be married
- Wonderful step for me... meetings of the Body of Christ- our church community. Wonderful teaching. Thank you
- Why the children don't understand the mass to become passionate and more embracing of the love of Christ Jesus
- The guilty must come forward & confess & repent
- Deaconess's & Deacon's role within the church
- Have peace in your hearts, your homes, your parishes and in the whole world
- Loyalty and commitment
- Healing & faith

- I believe that we are called to be voice, hands and feet of Jesus here on earth... and it is the church's job to assist us in this task – by supporting, encouraging and teaching us to do it well
- Ability to articulate & live Christ's mission
- Loss of young people to continue our mission
- To stand together in Peace and Love
- To come together as a community therefore bringing us closer to God
- How to be relevant in a modern, pluralist, secular society
- "LISTEN" Holy Spirit Telling us
- Love your neighbour... Love your country
- Dear Bishop, Faithfulness to His Commandments, exactly what he has always wanted from us. Nothing has changed during the ages- **we** have just lost our way. We call this "progress" & "keeping up with times" – DECADENT TIMES. This should not be the question we are asked. We all know the correct answer.
- To rebuild trust. To be true to our faith
- Perhaps our priests could offer advice regarding funerals, cremation, etc, from the pulpit. Also our clergy could deal with "news" issues and tie into our beliefs – not be afraid to offer opinions on topical issues. Is celibacy being discussed in light of the actions of some priests. Is this man made law likely to change.
- We need to get back to the heart of the gospel, by living our lives according to the gospel message
- He is asking the Church to look after his people
- Embrace the teachings and encourage others to join or rejoin
- That we know our faith, grow in holiness truly know & love Jesus. Our catholic faith taught to us includes not only love & peace but also all teachings that Jesus taught – Hell, Abortion, morals, commandments, Eternal life, God's Will Not Feelings BUT TRUTH
- That the church does not water down the TRUTH of Jesus Teaching commands just to make it more acceptable to society!! The secular society
- Where are the people with dreadlocks, tattoos? Where are the outcasts of society? Not at our church at St.Michaels.
- To accept the whole of humanity into Christ's world
- A male Priest and Deakin - reading the bible – encourage young kids to come to the church
- . Time to consider marriage and voluntary celibacy for priests . Listen to parishioners . Clericalism is killing us . Clerics need to have faith that change in God's church will bring growth, not death

- Humility -Inclusiveness of all peoples The ability to accept and evolve as a religion e.g. women priests LGTBI I think St.Michaels youth group & masses is a great step in the right direction
- Helpful
- In Croatic Mass YQEA
- More music
- More music
- Honesty and integrity from ALL. Equality and a sense of inclusion to All people
- I believe God is asking us to stay focused on Him and His Son and Spirit Not to be distracted by irrelevant things
- The church needs to be more open and transparent to its people as I feel the church is in crisis
- The third rite of reconciliation
- To become more transparent To have priests attempt to know all parishioners rather than a clique groups or individuals To enable Parishioners to have input into decisions about their Parish
- Leadership and Guidelines in our faiths journey through life and to keep up with the changes in the modern world for our youth's sake as they are our future
- To have a church in which the laity have a full& active voice at all levels of the church_
- Get back to grass roots * caring for our poor, hungry and homeless * teaching prayers long forgotten e.g. Rosary
- Humea Vitea
- We need to be very caring of our Priests. Aware of their silent needs
- Peace for the world
- That the church not cover up the wrongdoings of individual clergy members. That the church itself plays an active role in stopping abuses and spotting them early. That equality be promoted by the church & giving due respect to the nuns of the parish
- To have compassion and love
- God Bless
- LOVE & UNITY IN FAITH Gods rules not man's rules
- To remain true to our faith and the teachings of Jesus, not to trivialise the sacredness of our church & our sacraments
- To unite together in love. To be welcoming, loving and respectful to one another. To be faithful and be proud to spread goodness.
- 1. Change 2. Reform 3. Forgiveness

- To get back to basic principles of love, respect, care for all. To employ catholic teachers in primary schools for a fundamental love of the bible & its teachings, sadly lacking
- Adapt to the times – same language has no relevance to today's youth. We need our youth. Inclusiveness, welcoming to all.
- Love within yourself & to others compassion to others and acceptance of all, understanding of the word, giving of ourselves, assist more with charity
- Bring back reverence for Jesus in the tabernacle
- Love, understanding and hope
- Openness and Honesty
- To be true to ourselves both at home and in public
- The use of inclusive language in the liturgy
- Speak up live our faith (drawing depicting two young people saying let's go out. Another young person saying Nah I am off to church) DON'T HOLD BACK
- To be inclusive of all in the community, who may differ from us in many ways, in the steps of Jesus our model
- To have courage
- We need another clean
- Importance of family & community within church. Encourage ordained. Respect for Bishop. Bishop & laity role each one plays within our church
- Start with Catholic schools, Religious education, Catholic teachers, Catholic disciplines, students and parents involved in Parish life
- Reach out to those who are hurting. To be more tolerant of others with disability and mental issues
- Reconciliation, forgiving, loving each other, healing us mentally, physically and spiritually
- Important sacrament of marriage and importance of family life



Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age.*

Amen.

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*

