



**Pastoral  
Discernment**  
Northern Beaches

# Small Group Conversation Summary



Bilgola Beach on Sydney  
Northern Beaches.

As we journey forward together we are invited to consider:

## How is God calling the people of the Northern Beaches to journey forward together as pilgrim and missionary people of God?

### Welcome

Thank you for participating in the consultation phase of the Pastoral Discernment, Northern Beaches project.

This **Small Group Conversation Summary** booklet has been developed to provide each small group with a space to record the small group listening and dialogue conversation.

In this, the consultation phase of the project, you are invited to give thanks to God for the way in which the Spirit is at work in the life of the local Church, and to consider new possibilities for both its growth and the future of the region.

The practice of Conversation in the Spirit integrates active listening, intentional speaking, moments of silence, and respect for each participant's input. It can transform the way we listen to the Spirit moving in and through the group as we pray and discern together.

During the pastoral discernment listening and dialogue rounds you are invited to reflect, respond, and review the circumstances, opportunities, and challenges that may be considered to ensure that a sustainable and thriving ecclesial community exists for the Northern Beaches region of the Diocese.

Journeying forward together requires us to discern, as a community, our context through connection, prayer, reflection, sharing with one another and seeking God's direction.

All are welcome to participate in the discernment consultation and we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us as we begin this journey.





Each small group is invited to nominate a 'Table Scribe' who, once everyone has finished speaking, works with the group to complete this summary report.

#### **When completing your small group summary report;**

- It is recommended that the group's response be captured in a short summary.
- You are asked to include **five to seven key points** that capture the important parts of the discussion.
- Your response should **reflect the diversity of views and opinions expressed, both positive and negative**. It should be faithful to the people's voices and to whatever has emerged from their reflection rather than a series of generalised or doctrinally correct statements.
- **Views should not be excluded** simply because they were expressed by a small minority of participants.
- Overall, the response should **capture what the Holy Spirit** has inspired the group to discern.
- Allow approximately 20 minutes to complete the report

Once the report has been completed, submit your small group conversation summary responses to your community **Consultation Facilitator**, who will collate and synthesise all responses that have been received from each small group, into a **Community Summary Report**.

Once the Community Summary Report is finalised, your community is invited to submit a Pastoral Discernment Submission for Bishop Anthony's discernment and consideration.

# Small Group Conversation Summary Report

Name of person completing this summary report.

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List the names of each participant in your small group conversation.

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Notes.

**Question 1:** The religious composition of the Northern Beaches community shows a high number of people identifying with no religion, many of whom may have once identified as Catholic. What relationships do we have with the people in this group? What opportunities for mission exist in the wider community that this group can be involved in?

Our group summary.

Provide five to seven key points that captures the important parts of the discussion.

Provide a summary of **convergences**; discussion that reflected your groups shared opinion/s amongst your group.

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Provide a summary of **divergences**; discussion that reflected a difference of opinion/s amongst your group.

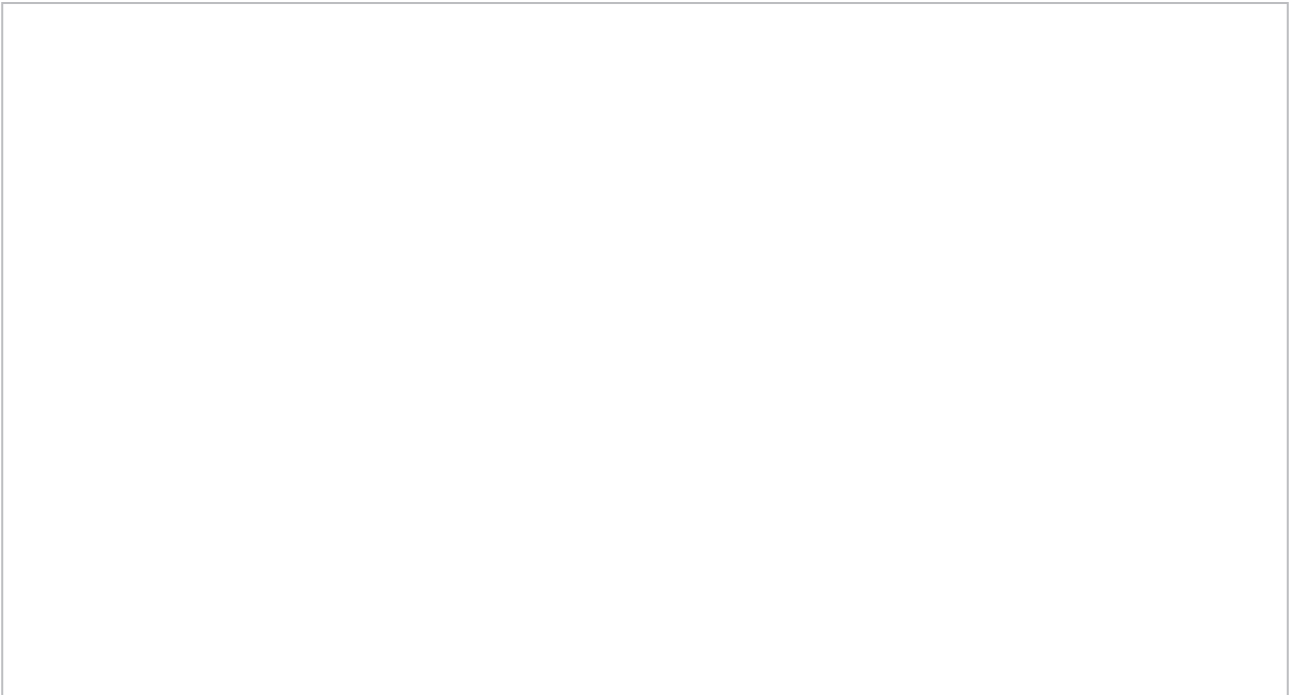
Please list below further questions for consideration or questions that require further clarification that arose during your small group conversation.

Notes.

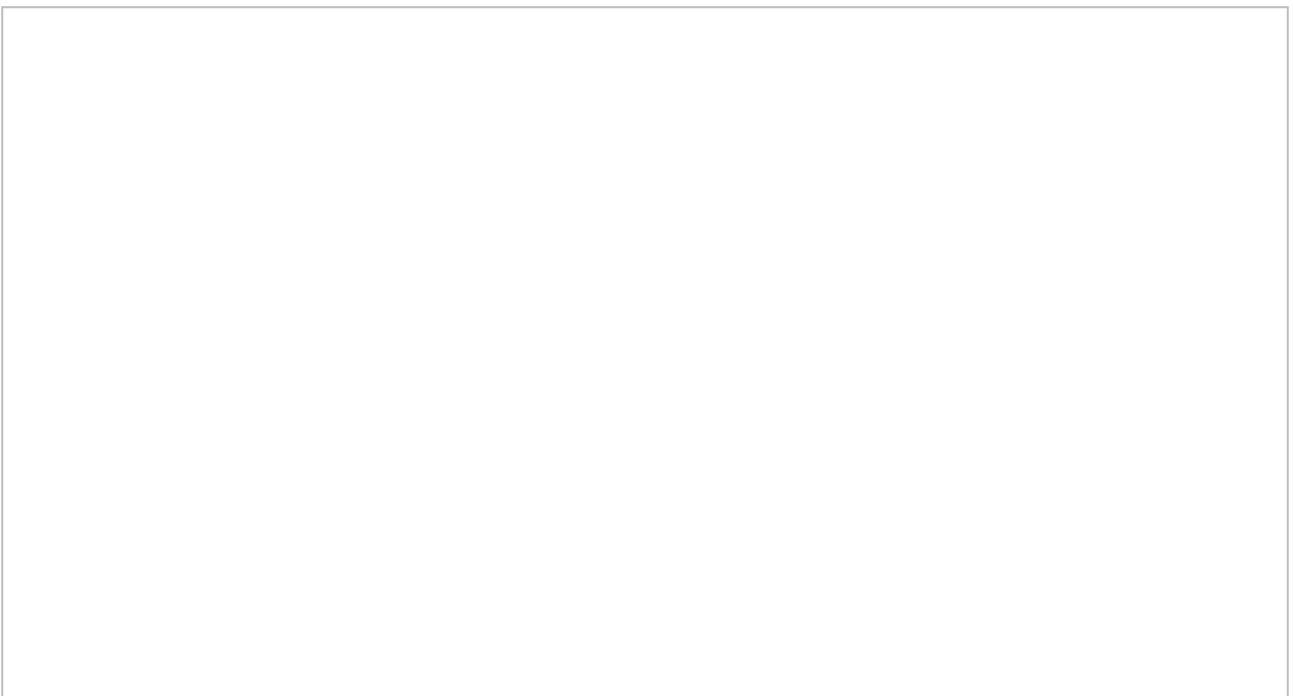


**Question 2:** The data highlights that there has been an increase in the number of Catholic Families on the Northern Beaches between the years 2016 and 2021. What ministries may need to be strengthened or developed to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of these families?

Our group summary.



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**Question 3:** The largest number of Catholics, by age, on the Northern Beaches are children aged 10-19. Also, the data reports that a large proportion of Catholic students attend state schools. What may need to be considered in providing avenues for mission for the youth and young people on the Northern Beaches?

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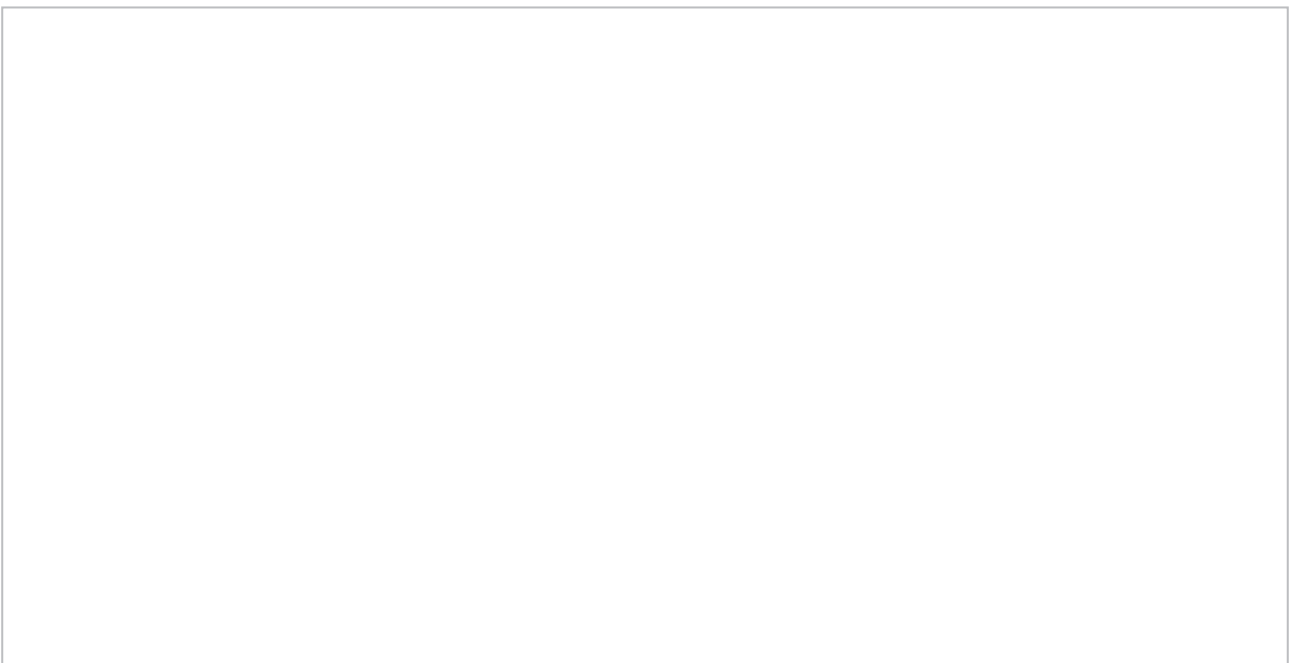


**Question 4:** An increasing number of people living in the Northern Beaches experience a number of social difficulties: domestic and family violence, mental health and wellbeing concerns, and difficulties due to the effects of the current housing affordability crisis. What may need to be considered to support and resource the specific social and disadvantaged needs of people living on the Northern Beaches? What areas for outreach may need to be thought through and considered?

Our group summary.



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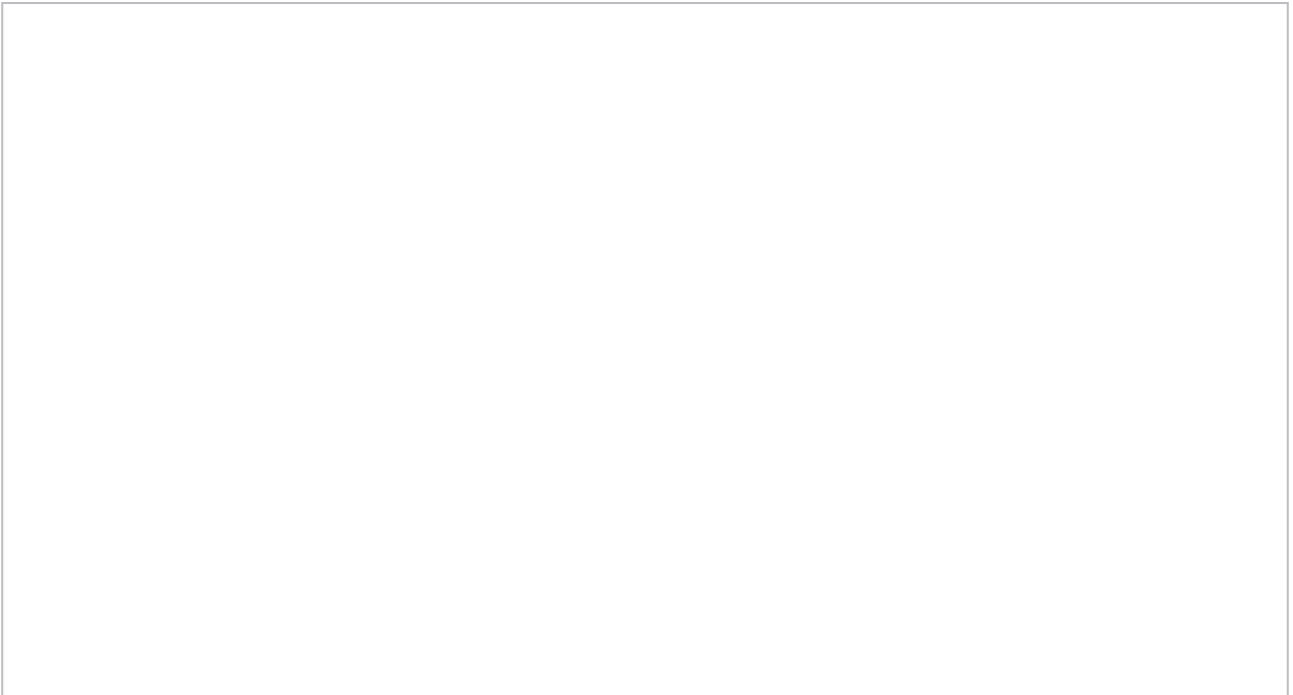
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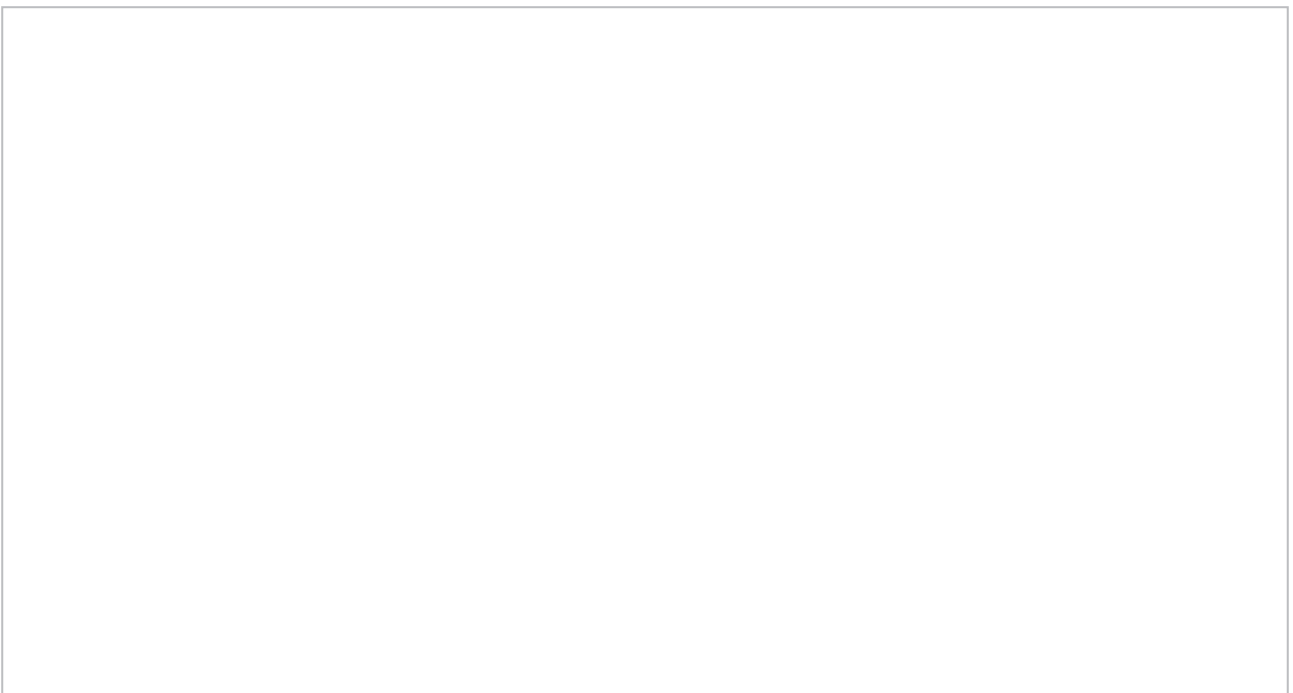
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**Question 5:** How does the current grouping of Catholic Communities on the Northern Beaches facilitate or limit; mission, ministry, worship, liturgy, and catechesis? What may need to be considered or reviewed to enhance and strengthen Catholic Communities on the Northern Beaches?

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