

Pastoral Discernment North Shore COMMUNITY and/or INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION



QUESTION 1

Response to Question 1: The data highlights a clear and significant decline in participation in the pastoral and sacramental life of our communities. How does this shift impact our sense of identity and mission within our local communities? What resourcing initiatives or areas of mission should be considered to address this decline in Catholic identification in the North Shore Deanery?

8. Provide a summary of the main points discussed;

To increase participation and identification, we need to approach the problem with a strategic marketing plan which focus of communicating the following -

1. awareness of the Church being a play of joy, love and diversity of experience as well as a place for sadness and distress
 2. build an image of Faith as a personal relationship with God and Jesus
 3. to persevere with regular attendance (showing commitment) and prayer
 4. the ways of praying, Catholic Traditions and Sacraments because it is life giving
- Conversion through grassroots engagement and welcoming program

9. Provide a summary of the **convergences**; discussion that reflected the shared opinion's amongst your community group.

- there is currently a failure of awareness in young people as to the purpose of Church and Mass as a way to reenergise
- we need to rethink how we engage youth, the current way we worship (including the Youth Mass) could be seen as tedious
- including more ways to welcome new people e.g. "If we have anyone new here today at Mass, we welcome you...." with an invitation to morning tea
- new people and community need many conversion points and stimulate the desire to stay i.e. the different types of ministries
- new people should be encouraged and their talents harnessed to assist with youth
- there is a shortage of altar servers and catechists
- during Co-vid people found other ways to experience the Church
- the positivity of music and the use of this as a resource
- the Church is not just the priest |

10. Provide a summary of the **divergences**; discussion that reflected a difference of opinion amongst your community group.

The notion of "engagement of youth". What does this mean? Our community is aging and when young people leave their family home to go to university/college, they live in different suburbs.

Community can be looked at as the "Quality" of people, not just the "Quantity"

11. List below further questions for consideration or questions that require further clarification

How to balance tradition and new ways of relating? - this will give use reason to hope
How can parents take more responsibility for their child's spiritual life?

**Response to Question 2: What pastoral synergies exist across our North Shore Deanery?
How might clusters of parish communities collaborate more effectively? What may be possible across our cluster of parishes in our Deanery?**

12. Provide a summary of the main points discussed;

We are unaware of any general synergies.
Specific examples could be Vincent de Paul and bell ringing
We could combine Parish Youth Groups between a few parishes.
Adult faith education to share skills and experiences across Parishes

13. Provide a summary of the **convergences**; discussion that reflected the shared opinion's amongst your community group.

- connection to the Parish and involvement makes a big difference to our community and individuals
- learning how you can talk to God allows individuals feel peace and joy
- different Parishes have different cultural mixes and different opportunities for cultural experiences
- Sunday School like experiences for a number of Parishes could develop into shared opportunities

14. Provide a summary of the **divergences**; discussion that reflected a difference of opinion amongst your community group.

What is the definition of "pastoral synergies"- do we have some already and how are they different to some of our groups? |

15. List below further questions for consideration or questions that require further clarification in response to question 2.

How to keep children and youth engaged and feeling the benefits of feeling the sharing the faith?
Acknowledgement of how little interaction there is between Parishes

QUESTION 3

Response to Question 3: What do you consider to be the most pressing issues for people living in the North Shore Deanery and how best might parish communities respond to these?

16. Provide a summary of the main points discussed;

Common Themes

- disconnection, isolation and lack of belonging due to lack of involvement and engagement is an issue
- the culturally diverse communities within our area
- connection beyond social contacts and ensure acceptance of everyone

17. Provide a summary of the **convergences**; discussion that reflected the shared opinion's amongst your community group.

- Parish needs to respond to changing demographics of the community
- an increase of active roles for a variety of ages and cultures
- we recognise of the value of service and engagement to increase service of community
- importance of cultural sensitivity in designing steps to encourage and increase accessibility
- we need to meet people where they are and how we can all live our faith beyond the Church buildings|

18. Provide a summary of the **divergences**; discussion that reflected a difference of opinion amongst your community group.

None for this Question

19. List below further questions for consideration or questions that require further clarification in response to question 3.

How can we encourage young people to attend Church out of choice rather than coercion?
How can we be more culturally aware and sensitive?
How to achieve cohesion between generation?

QUESTION 4

Response to Question 4: The data highlights an increasing demand and stress on community members due to high living costs and housing distress. How can the Church's pastoral mission be adapted to address these challenges? What specific pastoral initiatives can the Church implement to support individuals and families facing financial hardship? What areas for outreach may need to be thought through and considered?

20. Provide a summary of the main points discussed;

The group felt that this was a difficult question to distil and understand what was being asked in this time. Our summary

- we feel that outreach ministry was not a priority of the Broken Bay Diocese
- outreach for the Broken Bay Diocese includes identified failures compared to other Dioceses regarding structures and memberships that would support strategic and effective outreach.

21. Provide a summary of the **convergences**; discussion that reflected the shared opinion's amongst your community group.

- Outreach ministry may not be seen as priority of the BBD due to lack of Justice and Peace Office and engagement with the Sydney Alliance
- CatholicCare develop a bigger presence within parishes and between parishes
- Outreach can be an opportunity to evangelise on many levels
- Vincent de Paul does extensive outreach and our parish should be built on that
- We must listen further to hear people's stories in order to inform the outreach actions

22. Provide a summary of the **divergences**; discussion that reflected a difference of opinion amongst your community group.

Some parishioners are not aware of the work done by the Diocese or CatholicCare
Differences of opinion noted in the notion of homelessness and how this should be considered and addressed in our community, especially one that is perceived to be affluent.

23. List below further questions for consideration or questions that require further clarification in response to question 4.

How Church can utilise resources to better help those in need?
How can BBD engage a Justice and Peace Office and with the Sydney Alliance?
How can BBD become a member of the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network in alignment with other Catholic Dioceses?
Consider an audit of Church assets to determine sites where social and affordable housing may be constructed

QUESTION 5

Response to Question 5: How does the current configuration of Catholic Communities on the North Shore 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 North Shore?

24. Provide a summary of the main points discussed;

There is a sense of our North Shore community being fragmented. There are some missed opportunities to engage all ranges of practicing Catholics from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds to engage in mission, ministry etc

25. Provide a summary of the **convergences**; discussion that reflected the shared opinion's amongst your community group.

- everyone wants to feel like they belong to something sometimes more than just our local parish
- diverse communities needs to be engaged
- our open and welcome community is appreciated
- creation of in-parish/cross-parish activities would be welcomes
- stronger reach to public and private school families to broaden connection between parishes
- there could be more opportunities for more missionary work in our Diocese
- building a stronger community with a variety of fellowship of spirit at Mass - welcoming more than just name tags
- the use of lay people to assist more with the ministry

26. Provide a summary of the **divergences**; discussion that reflected a difference of opinion amongst your community group.

- There is a perception discussed that the more traditional approach to Mass may limit how some people engage - this may be reflective of the cultural backgrounds of our table group and community.

27. List below further questions for consideration or questions that require further clarification in response to question 5.

- How can we create opportunities to engage within and between parishes e.g., sport, music
- How can we do more than just celebrate a traditional Mass?
- How will our Church survive?
- How can we remove the barrier of language in Mass