

“What changes need to be made in our parish to share fully in the mission given to us by Jesus Christ to make it more vibrant and effective in the world today?”

Summary of Responses.

A. Make the parish more inclusive and engaging to young people, children and families

1. Involve more children and young people in the liturgy and the music:
 - a. As readers, altar servers, youth choir; using guitars and other instruments
 - b. By holding youth masses or services/In leading services, including using music and art
 - c. Hold some Masses/Communion Services specially for children/young families which are shorter, with child-friendly readings and homily, participation from children, ‘fun’ Mass sheet, happier hymns, with a children’s choir
 - d. Make Mass a more joyful and more lively celebration
2. Restart children’s liturgy
3. Develop more social activities attractive to young people, families and children
4. Canvass opinions of young and individual families to identify concerns and be open to change
5. Employ a Family Worker to manage/coordinate toddler group, children’s activities, children’s liturgy, prayer services for children & families. Offer drop in/ play sessions

B. Increase integration and outreach

1. Maintain online Masses (though preferably not on Facebook)
2. Be more welcoming:
 - a. Have welcome sessions; introduce and welcome new members at end of Mass
 - b. Could Fr William/Fr James greet people in the porch before and after Mass?
 - c. Interact more with different ethnic groups and put welcome signs in various languages in entrances to church and hall
 - d. Remember minorities in homilies
3. Reach out to the wider community :
 - a. More involvement in local needs/ charities /refugees/homeless
 - b. Offer support for/ visit/phone: the elderly/lonely/sick and disabled
4. More social activities:
 - a. Show films in hall – some for families and some for older people
 - b. Establish: a luncheon club / walking group/ youth group/ social outings/ monthly meetings for retired/unemployed/ (non traditional) women’s group to identify parish priorities in role of women /group for separated/divorced/remarried
5. Twin with parishes in other countries
6. Have information available on how to become a Catholic

7. Improve relationship with other faith groups - be more ecumenical - meet with and work more other local churches, especially C of E

C. Strengthen relationship with schools

1. Make interactivity of school and church visible– eg displays of art work etc.
2. Primary schools to participate in church liturgy/ school choir to sing on Sundays
3. Parish to be more evident in school assemblies

D. Make changes to liturgy/devotions

1. Reconsider timings of Mass:
 - a. Hold Sunday Mass later at St Theresa's – it is too early for those with children and some who don't have their own transport.
 - b. Hold More than one Mass in St Columba's on Sunday
 - c. Have evening Mass on Sundays and Holy Days
 - d. Offer working people the opportunity to acquire the habit of attending voluntary liturgical activities – other than Saturday/Sunday Mass
 - e. Hold Mass every day
 - f. Have tea and coffee available after mid week Masses
 - g. Arrange transport to Mass
 - h. Hold a Latin Mass once a month
2. Music at Mass
 - a. Sing (joyfully) at all Masses
 - b. Have shorter hymns at beginning and end of Mass with a happy hymn at the end
3. Other suggestions
 - a. Re-establish liturgy group and improve overall leadership/co-ordination of liturgy
 - b. Train for lay ministry including readers and implement a common strategy for readers to follow.
 - c. Encourage parishioners from ethnically diverse groups to become readers and Eucharistic Ministers
 - d. Homilies should not be too long
4. Other devotions:
 - a. Introduce a collective Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - b. Introduce: Charismatic prayer group/Prayer group /Half hour Adoration weekly/more services of Adoration/ Bible study group
 - c. Keep the churches open for private prayer
 - d. Hold a Retreat

E. Further the development of one joint parish.

1. Recognise this is not complete
2. Use the same hymns and ways of serving in St Theresa's and St Columba's

F. Improve communication

1. *Really* consult with people and listen to what they say
2. Improve audibility in church to understand homilies and readings by: better sound system/ better use of sound system / maybe speak more slowly to overcome slight echo.
3. 'Warm up' the tone and format of website and newsletter.
 - a. Show names of contributors to make it more personal
 - b. Fr William/Fr James to write item for newsletter every week
 - c. Invite contributions from individuals eg on what parish means to them and write it up in Newsletter
4. Other suggestions:
 - a. Make personal approaches to parishioners to encourage volunteers/participation.
 - b. Consult parishioners more effectively about changes. Listen to views of all
 - c. Use the notice boards better
 - d. Minutes, agendas of parish committee meetings to be published

G. Other Issues

1. It is of critical importance to increase number of volunteers – otherwise none of the good ideas identified can be implemented. Need to recognise that majority of people can spare *some* time/ use *some* talent and not assume that everyone else has more time/more talent/more skills
2. Revitalise Pastoral Council and clarify its purpose
3. Greater transparency in funding and use of parish money
4. Recognise some have left for other parishes. Why? How can it be avoided?
5. Need for community activities to be social as well as worshipping to attract non worshippers to the church - who may then become worshippers.

H. Change is unnecessary

1. Thank you for making the parish a place that I always want to come to reflect and pray
2. Fr William and Fr James make the parish more inclusive (love their stories and messages)
3. Enjoy Mass – seeing everyone I know, it's a family affair. I love Sunday Mass.
4. Like how warm and welcoming the church and congregation are
5. Happy with the way things are (4 people)