Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Bulla, Clarkefield, Diggers Rest, Sunbury, Wildwood

Listening and Dialogue Engagement

Accumulation



Contents

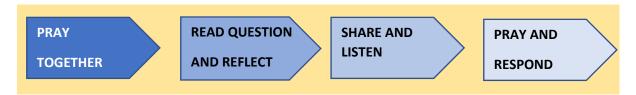
Methodology4
Part One - "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Issues Raised5
Being Christ Like5
Catholic Schools5
Church Leadership and Hierarchy6
Church Rules6
Daily Living7
Evangelising7
Ecumenism8
Families8
Formation and Training of Priests8
Growth in Faith8
Involvement of the Laity9
Liturgies9
Married Priests
Our Parish10
RCIA10
Role of Priests10
Sexual Abuse11
The Bible11
The Marginalised11
Youth12
Part Two - <i>Summary</i> of main topics chosen by groups and covered in depth in listening and dialogue encounters14
EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN14
EVANGELISING, MARGINALISED, INVOLVEMENT OF LAITY, FORMATION OF PRIESTS14
THE CHURCH GOING FORWARD14
GREATER ROLE / INVOLVEMENT FOR WOMEN16
GETTING YOUNGER PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHURCH17
HOW CAN THE CHURCH GO BACK TO BASICS IN OUR MODERN-DAY SOCIETY?18
LEADERSHIP, PASTORAL APPROACH, THE FACE OF CHRIST18
MARRIED PRIESTS
TOLERANCE
THE CHURCH SHOULD BE A MORE WELCOMING CHURCH THAT ALL GENERATIONS WANT TO BE PART OF19

THE CHURCH IN TODAYS WORLD	20
Acknowledgements	21

Methodology

Parishioners were invited to attend in small group Listening and Dialogue Engagements facilitated by a member of the Parish Plenary Council Team. A total of 6 sessions were conducted over two Thursdays and two Saturday mornings. There were over 120 participants from across the Parish. Some parishioners participated in one session whilst others two in order to Pray, Reflect and Share with one another their responses to the question - "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"

The engagements followed the methodology provided by the National Plenary Council Team:



Facilitators took notes during each dialogue engagement and these notes are the content of this accumulation. There has been no editing other than categorising and spell check.

At the end of each session participants were encouraged to submit their individual contributions on line to the Plenary Council Website

Part One - "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" ... Issues Raised

Being Christ Like

- Follow his example of inclusiveness and remove restrictions (Rules) preventing people from participating.
- We need to explore how we can individually and as church, be more Christ like!
- o COMPASSIONATE, INCLUSIVE, COMMUNITY
- Caring, listening and forgiving each other.
- Treat each other as we would like to be treated.
- Be tolerant of others and exercise self-discipline.
- Obey the Commandments and practise our faith.
- There is no more "fear of God"
- o Need to build a culture of forgiveness, respect, and love.
- We should be guided in our actions by "What would Christ do?"
- O What would Jesus do if He were starting his church today?
- All facets of the church are to be like Jesus, to be the face of Jesus of to the outside world.
- o Back to Gospel not 16th century Europe model
- Live concern for the people
- Live the character of Christ
- Remove those things that are not Christ like
- Tradition makes us comfortable and, in some ways, it is good for us. BUT are our traditions Christ Like?
- We need to be Christian,,,,being kind.

Catholic Schools

- Improve the ethos in Catholic Schools as some Catholics are home schooling, dissatisfied with the Catholic school environment.
- Catholic Education Is it failing if youth don't come to church?
- o Catholic Schools must be more in tune with, and supportive of Parish
- Church schools to make a stand on kids who get bullied for actively practising their faith – encourages participation in the faith.

Church Leadership and Hierarchy

- After 50 years teaching in Catholic schools one participant felt totally disenchanted by the hierarchy but has maintained her faith. People feel they have not abandoned the Church, rather the Church has abandoned them!
- "What have you done to my Church!" The hierarchy of the Church has a lot to answer for from the Pope and Cardinals down and should be more accountable.
 Generally speaking the Church needs to be more tolerant. Tolerance mentioned by 3 participants.
- Support the Church as we support one another.
- o Eradicate Clericalism.
- The Church needs to be *accountable* both morally and legally.
- The Church should be open and transparent, Not secretive.
- o Inappropriateness of Church Structure and administration
- Society has changed dramatically over recent decades the Church must adapt to today's society with the hierarchy accountable to the wider church.
- o Bishops to openly condemn paedophilia.
- The church is to still maintain a certain degree of hierarchical authority in order to maintain the body of the church, the people of God, and guide them.
- How does the church become more relevant to us; to community; to our family; to next generation?????
- Infrastructure of Church
- Authority of Church- extent of authority and who holds authority (some clerics are un- Christ like in the way they use the authority given)
- Safeguards against abuse of authority
- Co-operative leadership
- O What are the main issues to tackle now?
- The Church hierarchy need to listen to the people and admit their faults
- The Church hierarchy needs to address issues of sexuality, married priests, increased involvement of women.
- o Review the power makers (Bishops) in the modern church
- The clergy need to apologize to the parishioners about the way child abuse was mismanaged.
- We need to regain trust in the Church leaders.
- o The Church leadership needs to admit their faults and listen to the laity.

Church Rules

- The Church is stifled by man-made Rules.
- o Governance of the church should be open and transparent with no secrecy.
- Genuine way to live faith- not bound by rules
- Canon Law get shoved- rules need changing
- o Revisit rules on contraception
- Church review roles and regulations, theologies, behaviours
- Look at the sin not the sinner.

Daily Living

- Church should adopt "mindful" techniques for daily catholic living
- Make being a member of the Church easier with clear rule sets that reflect modern times.
- o Development and practice of the faith as morals and values decline.
- Too much emphasis in the church and the commandments on "don't do this",
 "don't do that", too little positive encouragement and direction.
- God is asking us to remember our core values
- o We need to love and respect each other more and to increase our Spiritual life
- o Family life and helping neighbours is important.
- o The Church provide added value/relevance to current generation of Catholics
- Relevance of the Church, why are we going to Mass, preaching to the converted
- More like family open with one another
- Not rely on labels "terrorism", "Islam" be available to get behind to the person
- Embrace all cultures
- Human race created in God's image to know God we need to know one another
- o The community needs to assist and support each other.
- We seem to have lost hope and enthusiasm and we need to find ways to improve.
- We need to serve and love God.
- To be faithful, pray and give an example of Christian life.
- As a country we need to turn to God and reach out to others.
- O What are the main issues we need to tackle at this time?
- We need to love and respect each other and increase our spiritually.
- The family is the nexus of the community.

Evangelising

- There needs to be more emphasis on Ecumenism. One church building shared by many denominations, separately and collectively. We are all one! Sunbury is moving in the right direction but there is a long way to go.
- o For balance, it important that the church promotes the good works it does.
- That the Church be more missionary
- Church is disengaged and needs to reengage with community
- Need to ask more people
- Promote what works for the church
- Alfa program to bring disciples
- Look for a way to bring peace to the world- be kinder to people
- To increase dialogue with secular world
- o How does the Church regain trust, evangelise in the 21st century?
- o Ensure the future of the Church
- Examine reasons for forgotten heritage and richness of the Church
- We need to look to the future and reflect on the past.

- Show how good the Church is to re-establish trust.
- We need to reach out to fellow Australians.
- o How do we evangelize in the 21st century?

Ecumenism

- o Respect all religions, particularly Catholicism, that is ecumenism.
- o The Parish should have greater interaction with
 - Other nearby parishes and,
 - Other religious communities within Sunbury
- o Intolerance to other religions
- o See others as part of our Church family regardless of their religion.

Families

- The Church should provide greater active, practical support to families.
- o Family friendly approach to church

Formation and Training of Priests

- Seminary training needs to be revised so that priests are more approachable.
 We need to eradicate Clericalism and get rid of the pre-Vatican II baggage, e.g. the use of titles, soutanes, dog collars, Birettas, and the use of Latin (all elitist)
- o A meaningful way to counter the serious lack of priests
- The desperate shortage of priests. When will Bishops wake up to threat this factor is to the future of the Church?
- o Priestly ordained model is flawed- Seminary training- Option of Married Priests
- Making priesthood attainable to all...including for women.

Growth in Faith

- There should be greater opportunities to investigate the faith leading to personal and spiritual growth and development.
- People need to walk in someone else's shoes before they judge. Remove the plank from your own eye before you attempt to remove the splinter from someone else's.
- O How can we explore our faith and be more relevant in this age, more tolerant?
- What does it mean to be Catholic how can we proclaim the love of God to our families who don't practise like we were brought up.
- o Correcting misconceptions of our faith and our love of God
- Need to be more open to the age we live in
- o The Church needs to educate the faithful not punish.
- o Better educate Catholics to appreciate and understand God's splendour
- o In the past "family" was so much part of our Faith. We need to share our Faith.
- We need to educate the faithful not punish them.

Involvement of the Laity

- o The Church needs to involve the Laity more, particularly women.
- Formalise/recognise the involvement of women in the church. <u>Mentioned by 4</u>
 participants
- Greater governance role for lay people, especially for women
- Support the Priests that we currently have by providing business management support so that they can focus on pastoral duties
- A greater voice for women in the church
- Women to have a bigger say in the church encourages participation and inclusiveness.
- More roles for the laity
- o Revaluate roles of men and women and improvement in Mass attendance
- That lay people have more say in decision making with a bottom up approach rather than the current top down approach
- More of the people
- The role of women in the church needs to change. Whether this means they
 take more responsibility in the running of the church, whether we ordain them as
 priests or special ministers/celebrants. By doing this we will increase the pool of
 prospective priests for the future.
- o Acknowledgement of role of women in the Church.
- o Power is unequal in the church.... the faithful should be in responsible positions.
- Inclusion of women in roles of responsibility.

Liturgies

- Review the music to attract younger generations but ensure that the words of traditional hymns are not lost.
- Sharing our faith and personal experiences is a powerful way of evangelising, while Mass can often be boring.
- There should be a return of General Absolution as an option for the sacrament of confession.
- Contemporary Christian music is a great tool to achieve this encourages
 participation in the faith. Congregations feel they are united as one when they
 sing in unison. Music can touch and inspire people in their spiritual journey.
- People focus on big church weddings rather than on the significance of the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Reconciliation- (possibly use Third Rite). Review Canon Law on the way it's done due to numbers of people receiving sacrament declining
- Liturgy needs to be relevant for youth and children.
- Aboriginal Liturgy shows a great sense of Spirituality.
- o Homilies need to be more relevant.
- o Can we have more children's Masses?

Married Priests

- As we have married priests from other denominations, stop the hypocrisy and allow priests to marry. The community misses out on the involvement of the disenfranchised.
- o Introduce married priests. <u>Mentioned by 4 participants</u>
- o Promote the opportunity for married and female Priests.
- Priests should be allowed to marry.
- We need to look at the role of married clergy and women priests.

Our Parish

- Plenary Council may decide on changes for the Australia-wide Church, but the local parish culture can't be ignored
- There needs to be more opportunities (other than mass) for community building so parishioners can know one another better.
- Parish Models

RCIA

 The RCIA puts barriers in the way of new recruits. The process needs revision while the perseverance of the candidates needs to be admired. More Rules.

Role of Priests

- Priests and clergy have a role to play. Need priests who are passionate (e.g.: the
 preacher at the royal wedding), who are able to "preach" the gospel and not just
 read it. Priests should try to speak from the heart and homilies should be down
 to earth. Laity should be more loving and engage with non-believers all of this
 promotes inclusiveness and participation.
 - Some priests have a way of being able to connect and resonate with children and youth.
- Celibacy and owning property
- Back to basics and pastoral works, less admin for priests
- o Priests need down time to manage their stressors
- We need to allow priests to marry, as this will ensure that they have an understanding of current issues affecting families first hand and they will be able to respond and deal with issues affecting families in their parishes more effectively as this will give them real experience. Also, it was felt that this might prevent further issues of abuse within the church. We are not saying it will solve the issue but will help greatly towards eliminating the possibility of this re-occurring in the future.

Sexual Abuse

- o Purge the priesthood of all Paedophiles. Sexual abuse has kept people away.
- The trauma for the faithful of Child abuse by Clergy
 - The public injustices drive youth away
- Parishioners were also hurt by the findings of the Royal Commission- was very sickening for all
- o Do recent events turn people off?
- o That Plenary Council takes in and addresses various forms of abuse
- Archbishop writes letter to all Catholics apologising for all misdeeds committed by clergy
- All clergy provide a personal apology in all Parishes to Catholics for past misdeeds committed
- The Child abuse inquiry showed a negative side to the Catholic Church and that has not been helpful.
- Church needs to right the wrongs.... Child Abuse.

The Bible

 We were never encouraged to read the Bible. Now we are behind relative to other denominations.

The Marginalised

- o There needs to be greater outreach to the marginalised: e.g. Gay's, homeless, etc
- The Church needs to strive for National Unity by uniting all the small groups under its umbrella.
- There should be loving acceptance of homosexual (Gay) Catholics generally.
- There must be equality for everyone in the church and the marginalised must be welcomed and able to participate in all sacraments.
- The church must adopt full community with all people: the marginalised, divorced, LGBTI, must be able to participate fully in the life of the church.
- o LGBT community and the divorced to be included encourages inclusiveness.
- Remove all restrictions for Divorcees
- Relevance to- women; divorced; gay and others???
- Marginalized people are concerns- divorced, gay- not being accepted in the church- not being inclusive
- Explore attitudes to those who are considered 'outsiders'- gay, racial, wealthy, poor, etc
- Gay & Divorced need inclusion in the Church (all marginalized)
- o More welcoming to those Priests who have left the priesthood
- We need to be more welcoming and inclusive. This means that old restrictions for divorcees & people of other religions need to be removed. A welcoming and inclusive church means we accept and welcome people of different ethnicity, gender & sexual preference, socio-economic backgrounds, age and physical & intellectual abilities.
- We need to be more inclusive and open, without judgement.

- We need to reach out to the marginalized, e.g., the elderly, the young, the members of the LGTBIQ people.
- Acceptance of diversity within the Church
- Sexuality and inclusion in the Church by the leaders.

Youth

- Learn from the innocence of youth who are better at faith and liturgy than we are. Children should be heard in church, they are the next generation of Catholics.
- We need to assemble our children's generation and ask them what they want of Church as at present they are avoiding the institution but living Christian lives.
 Relevance?
- Work with children both in the Parish and the schools to gain a greater appreciation of Catholic values and morals.
- Our youth have lost interest, demonstrated by fewer young families coming to Mass.
- Disconnection of Church from young people
- Need to develop appropriate social activities which are relevant to youth.
- Meeting youth on their terms connecting with them through social media.
- Promote the use of modern communication tools to enhance participation by younger generations.
- o Scepticism of Young People towards the Church
- Younger generation should not be forced to study theology but rather learn to develop their spirituality.
- Parents have a role to play challenge is to teach kids the faith without
 "stepping on their toes". Faith can be caught but if the parents are passive in
 teaching the faith then the likelihood of kids practicing the faith decreases. There
 needs to be a balance of faith being caught and taught. Sadly, many kids do not
 know how to pray.
- Keep things simple and regenerate young people in church
- How to encourage young people in Church- we have genuine concerns for the future of the church
- Would like to help youth become part of faith community
- O Who will be the next generation of the Church????
- o Explore how our church is influencing our youth
- We need to be able to listen & communicate with young people so as to ensure we have a future for our church. Currently our congregation is a majority of old age people and very few young people. We need to make sure we reignite young people faith and willingness to commit to the church. To do this we need to start listening to their respective needs, we need to start talking to them in their own way & above all we need to show respect as without respect they will fill alienated.
- Provide hope for youth

- o Listen to youth.
- o Expand the involvement of youth

Part Two - *Summary* of main topics chosen by groups and covered in depth in listening and dialogue encounters

EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

Objective is to educate our children and reinforce our family structures through our Catholic schools. Support is needed through our Priests, Bishops and how Seminarians are formed in their ministry.

EVANGELISING, MARGINALISED, INVOLVEMENT OF LAITY, FORMATION OF PRIESTS

That our community has the encouragement and support to reach out and accept the marginalised. That liturgy is relevant to our youth who are celebrated in their expressions of faith. That the laity have a greater say in the community church. Formation in the seminary allows for more approachable and compassionate Priests.

How to involve marginalized Groups.

- Can Liturgy be simplified and be made more relevant for families, youth and the elderly.
- Jesus embraced all and so should we. Church leaders need to come from a place of love not judgement.
- We need to be understanding of those who have other views and respect the values of others.
- We need good communication between all religions.
- Webcam in our church for" Mass for you at home"

THE CHURCH GOING FORWARD

- Make the Church where people want to be a member of, to be inclusive of all people, beliefs and creeds. No point in participating as nothing tends to be done and so a fractured model
- The Church has no sense of purpose, irrelevant and so need to encourage people to come back
- Catholics don't feel like Catholics
- Diversity, having more regard for God's providence
- Male and female priests and allow to be married
- There should be no right or wrong in Catholic beliefs and to be more acceptable to change
- How can we include others without impinging on their rights and beliefs?

- Church is inadequate in taking moral stands in looking after the most vulnerable and marginalised
- How to get young generation interested / learn / enrich their faith and return to the Church after leaving school
- How to engage better Catholics of other cultures
- Be not afraid to speak out about the Catholic faith in the wider community
- Make Catholicism more appealing to the masses, how to achieve and why?
- Follow-up with those who have become disaffected and turned away from the Catholic faith, many just turn up at Easter and Christmas
- Privileged life spent with children teaching them religion; 99% of them are living a good and generous life
- Feeling unwelcome, it needs that "something" to create a spark of interest
- Get young people more involved and to feel included in decision making
- Get young people in the door under their conditions
- Make the Gospel more relevant to today's world and values
- The sense of community is missing more and more
- It's not only me but many others who have shared concerns about the destiny of the Church and Catholicism
- We should care a lot more for others around us and not be self-centred
- Where and when do I see God most in my daily life?
- Modern day life has many daily routines and challenges, putting ourselves under more pressure and not listening to concerns of others around us
- In the fast, modern world of today we lack humility and compassion and are more materialistic and so less caring
- The Church is very inadequate in taking moral stands on difficult/tricky issues and looking after the most vulnerable in the community
- Not going to Mass in the past was a sin.
- Community is the Church.
- Youth do not have the same attitude to the Church.
- How long can us oldies keep going in our involvement in the church.
- We need to work through the hurt,
- Youth want leadership but can only see the negative in the Church. We need to be an Ecumenical community.

• Youth are involved in Vinnies....this needs to be promoted.

GREATER ROLE / INVOLVEMENT FOR WOMEN

- Women ought to be able to celebrate Mass and administer sacraments
- Women seem to have been the backbone of the early Church.
- Acts of the Apostles implies women in leadership roles
- Would help alleviate the shortage of priests.
- At any parish mass, women outnumber men by 2 to 1. They ought to have at least equal representation in all areas of the church.
- Clericalism and the male regime have brought our church to its knees. This structure needs to be replaced as a matter of urgency
- The Church would collapse if the unrecognised contribution of women was withdrawn. Many hours of service are already undertaken by women which goes unrewarded and unrecognised; e.g. cleaning, altar care, religious instruction, etc, etc.
- St Paul tells us the Spirit has given us all different gift, and it is wasteful not to use our gifts in the service of the Church. Proper use of available resources.
- Just as men and women complement each other in marriage, so men and women can
 and should work together successfully in the service of the Church as appears to be the
 case in our parish.
- Some nuns have left the religious life out of frustration with their roles and the
 inequality between men and women in the Church; e.g. when nuns enter religious life,
 they are expected to remain self-sufficient in the areas of cleaning, laundry and cooking.
 Priests employ a housekeeper. Nuns are expected to give up smoking and drinking.
 Priests can do either or both.
- There should be equality of purpose with more women rising to higher positions in the Church.
- One participant spoke of the roles two of her sibling sisters play in the Church as religious sisters, ranging from presiding over Eucharist liturgies and funerals to performing baptisms and parish administration and participation at Board level in the delivery of Catholic Health Services across Australia.
- The reasons for denying women ordination are not clear and there is no aspect of priesthood that physically could not be performed by a woman. St Paul tells us in Galatians 3:26 "there is no difference between men and women".
- Desire for greater role of women in the church. Women are very capable of fulfilling roles e.g. Deacon in the church. Child abuse would not have happened if women were in positions of power in the Church. We would have more priests available if they were to marry. All the group agreed that both married clergy and women priests was realistic and desirable. Some other faiths insist that their priests / rabbis are married.

- Role of women in the Church.
- Everyone is important in the Church.
- Importance of the role of women and all lay people in the Church.
- We don't have enough priests, so it seems logical to open up the priesthood to married men and women.
- Could women be Deacons. Lots of Saints are women.
- Women are capable of fulfilling responsible roles.
- If priests could marry, we may have an increase in vocations to the priesthood.
- Married and single women to become Deacons.
- Bishops need to be elected this would be more collegiate.
- Child abuse would not have happened if women were in power in The Church.
- Vision for OLMC in 2030...the congregation would be young, and we would have a woman Priest!

GETTING YOUNGER PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHURCH

- Why don't they come to mass?
- Too many more attractive distractions for young people these days.
- Emphasis should be on Church going out to young people rather than expecting young people to come to mass.
- Develop a TV based ministry which is relevant young people
- Example given of informal interaction by young families with families in other parishes

We believe young people are the future of our church surviving this tumultuous world & overcome current challenges.

We need to ensure that we:

- Listen respectfully to young people's ideas & views;
- change the way we speak to them by using simple language that is understood by them;
- become more welcoming & inclusive by opening the church to their friends, families & peers that might be from different cultural background or religion;
- allow young people to express themselves & share their views in their own way, whether is by music, writing, speech or other means of communication;
- we need to also ensure that schools, church & families are sending the same message to young people & teaching same values. This will mean that they need to start working together closely to ensure this is achieved.

Involvement of Youth in the Church

- Focus on the challenge and listen to what young people are saying.
- Young people care about social issues...e.g. Mini Vinnies.

HOW CAN THE CHURCH GO BACK TO BASICS IN OUR MODERN-DAY SOCIETY? (Community/pastoral/evangelisation)

Split into 2 main areas-

Priest basics

- More pastoral less admin building of schools etc too corporate in focus?
- Women priests
- Is our Mass too ritualistic- more interaction, less ridged to increase community involvement
- Priests need down time to manage their stressors

Church / community

- Encourage us to spend time with needs that present themselves i.e. homeless in our street as we walk past
- Being present and open
- Our structure separating us from the community
- Do we limit ourselves with our rigid perceptions, the difficultly with ours and others perception of us?
- Do we have rules for rules sake i.e. focus on wrong things rules rather than Christianity or compassion?

LEADERSHIP, PASTORAL APPROACH, THE FACE OF CHRIST

That we can trust our leaders are truly led by the Spirit. That the laity and clergy can
work with respect and reverence in building a church where all are accepted and
encouraged in leadership. That the church considers a pastoral approach to the
doctrine, accepting the changing world in which we are living. That our church is the
Face of Christ for all.

LITURGIES

- Thoughts for improving the Liturgy....can we use a different word from Liturgy?
- Family Masses, simplified Readings, prayer service by the laity, Name tags, Improved Hearing Loop.

MARRIED PRIESTS

- Celibacy ought to be optional at Ordination.
- The Church has accepted married priests from other denominations.
- Retired men should be encouraged to become priests/deacons.
- Formerly married men now serving as priests have a much better understanding of the challenges of raising a family.
- Many priests leave the priesthood to marry which is a great waste of resources when
 considering the cost and time devoted to training. If they had the choice to stay, it
 would enhance the image of the Church and retain a great resource of someone more in
 touch with family life and hence more approachable. The choice between the
 Priesthood and Marriage ought not result in the loss of ideally suited people as married
 priests already serve in other archdioceses and denominations.
- Married priests cost more because they have a family to support, however, the money can always be found.

TOLERANCE

- Respect each other. Jesus asked us to; "love one another as I have loved you".
- Exercise compassion and listen to other opinions even if they differ from your own, but don't abandon your beliefs and standards because of the views of others.
- The Church, in the past has been controlling and intolerant on matters of faith. The clergy today speak to people, not at them and are more tolerant than they were some 20 to 50 years ago, when the mantra seemed to be "faithful, know your place". One participant found Kevin McIntosh to be compassionate, tolerant and empathic in a recent encounter, which she found surprisingly refreshing and lifted her spirits.
- The discipline and harshness of "Parish Missions" of old, was mentioned. Sins of the past should be admitted, people held accountable and then we should move on.
- The fear of the Confessional was mentioned, particularly for children, which lead to the modern 3rd Rite of Reconciliation. It was suggested that the 3rd Rite be re-introduced as it will be required again in the future if the number of priests continues to decline.

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE A MORE WELCOMING CHURCH THAT ALL GENERATIONS WANT TO BE PART OF.

This should include the Church reviewing:

The workload of Priests

The current workload of the limited number of Priests is at a very high level and much of this effort is directed into areas of business management. Professional support in this area would provide Priests a greater opportunity to perform pastoral activities.

Promoting the opportunity for married and female Priests.

Other denominations have demonstrated that this is an achievable outcome. This recognises the importance of females and families in the Church.

Being an "open" Church by clearly communicating activities/plans as well as simplifying rulesets.

Any pending changes should be clearly communicated and not be introduced by stealth. The current rule set is not easy for younger generations to fully understand in today's world. The commandment list should be simplified to three basic commandments. The position of divorced Catholics should be made very clear and every opportunity be provided for affected people to be embraced by the Church.

Involve the Youth

All Parishes should have a youth officer/s to guide the younger generations throughout their school years. This should be aimed at promoting a welcoming and Catholic community.

The youth should be consulted for input for their expectations of Mass. This may involve but not limited to the music at Mass and the use of social media for experiencing Mass.

THE CHURCH IN TODAYS WORLD

We need our church to break barriers that are created by out of date doctrine. Barriers that don't accept the marginalised- e.g. divorced (looking to remarry), gay. A church that listens with compassion; that is accepting, hospitable and welcoming. A church that encourages women and married men in sacramental leadership.

- Accept that the church is not engaged
- That a lot of its traditional rules are now done by others
- We must ask the disengaged how a church is relevant
- Laity needs to be more active in the running of the parish as priest is too burdened by bureaucracy
- Need to publicize what is already being done

We need a church (all the people) where the Gospel is the basis for all decision making in today's world

- Go back to Gospel- make disciples
 - -Eucharist
 - -love God
 - -love neighbour
- Transparent set of rules

Family is the nexus of community and should be also in the Church.

Acknowledgements

This submission is the output of the great work of the Holy Spirit working with the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish Bulla, Clarkefield, Diggers Rest, Sunbury, Wildwood and the Parish Plenary Council Planning Team:

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We thank them for their commitment and great work