

Plenary Council 2020
St Joseph's Parish Subiaco
Parish *Listening & Dialogue* Executive Summary
Presented on Monday 19 November 2019

The '*small Church*' need not wait for the 'hierarchy' to implement reform because we ourselves can initiate change to our local parish and community, knowing what needs to be changed [Plenary Listening & Dialogue Group 1].

How can we support one another to become a caring/Christ-like community that is guided by the spirit with strong Faith, Hope and Charity? [Plenary Listening & Dialogue Group 2].

- **Role of Laity and Women**

- Greater involvement and inclusion of women in parish life.
- For laity [women and men] to have a greater role within the Church and Parish leadership structures within our Church.
- For lay people to have more of a role in leadership of different ministries in Church.
- Role of lay people in renewing Church leadership.
- Engage parishioners and listen to their voice.
- The voice of the parishioners will be heard and will contribute to the operation and activities of the Church.
- Empower the silent members of the parish to increase participation.

- **Participatory Parish Leadership**

- Inclusivity of people of God in decision making, not to exclude views of the common person.
- A more welcoming and inclusive Church - a Church to become more visible by holding 'public' events that are open to all in community.
- The parish environment will be in a format that enables the involvement of parishioners in partnership with the parish priest and other religious.
 - This will require a substantial change from the current model where the parish priest and more senior clerics have all the control and little, if no, accountability.
- Be more inclusive, welcoming, compassionate, open and understanding.
- All people should feel welcome, respected and valued.
- We need to respect each person's dignity and personal choices in how they live their lives.

- **Engaging 'Youth' and Young Adults**

- Prioritise engaging youth. Young people are the future of the church and it's important that we understand and listen to their views on the changes required to help them be more involved. Currently, it's a challenge to get young people to mass and to pray at their local parish.
- Need to better communicate to youth about our faith and its relevance to them being Christian.
- The need for a listening Church that responds truthfully to the voice of the youth; to have a supportive network for teenagers in particular, a time when they need God most but often the time they drift away from the Church.
- To re-engage with the many young people who have either left or never known the Church. Perhaps need to survey some that have left to find out

why, not just young people, there are many disenchanted older former practicing Catholics.

- Engage young people and listen to the voice of youth and young adults.
- Relationships with surrounding Catholic schools.

- **Parish Outreach**

- To display, act and live as witnesses of Jesus in our relationships with one another.
- Accessibility of Church to all, including those people who are marginalised
- Reach out and engage with people who are marginalised, disadvantaged and/or disconnected.
- Value and prioritise service to others.
 - The importance of the role of Catholics helping the community with practical projects outside of the Church.
- Help provide a hospitable home/welcome for refugees and asylum seekers.
 - Let's demonstrate our Christianity to all marginalised people.
- How do we address pandemic of mental health issues?
- Building bridges to those that have become disconnected from the Church.
- Building new relationships with people and various communities outside the Church.
- To be more of service to others in need: asylum seekers, refugees, poor, oppressed, Indigenous, homeless, domestic violence victims.

- **Formation and Spirituality Opportunities within the Parish**

- Create a message of hope and optimism that spreads to all parts of the community.
- Courses focussed on faith to bring lay Catholics back into Church
- Formation opportunities for lay people
- Formation of women leaders
- Formation of youth leaders
- Are we responding to the central core of the Gospels – responding to those in need? Need to focus on those in need, and only then can we come back together to 'break bread' at the Eucharist.

- **The Liturgy**

- **Music Ministry:** Needs to be livened up through music/song.
- To present the Gospels in a loving, meaningful way with relevance to a rapidly changing modern world.
- Communication during Masses - expand the use of technology at Masses to enable readings to be heard better, to get around issues of echoing with architecture of church; use of overheads/screens.
- **Plenary Council Prayer** - that all churches regularly use the prayer and for all to take prayer card home for regular prayer and increase awareness of Plenary Council 2020.

- **Accessibility and inclusivity**

- Use of inclusive language in lectionary/liturgy/hymns.
- More emphasis and appreciation of the vocation(s) of the laity.
- Co-responsibility in ministry as baptised Christians.
- Ecclesial identity of Australian Catholics