



## FEEDBACK FROM THE THREE SYNOD MEETINGS June-July 2022

Over the past months, there have been a number of meetings at the different churches in Christ the Good Shepherd Parish. During the meetings there was time for reflection and consultation. This brief document lists the feedback that came from the meetings and provides some broad brush-strokes in helping us to build up the parish and develop a strategy to go forward...

### **What surprised you about the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise that we undertook?**

Nothing. Status quo for a long time.

How we are all singing from the same hymn sheet. Most people think the same things.

So many people identified similar issues and want to engage to do something to help create a vibrant parish with joyful and prayerful Masses.

Positives outnumbered Negatives. Pleasantly surprised by the level of optimism and hope for future. Seeds of hope, not starting from nothing. Not all doom and gloom. Unity in outlook.

Strengths and Opportunities marginally outstripped Threats and Weaknesses. Tipping point?

Surprised by how some people saw the same things so differently, some as Strengths, others as Weaknesses.

Engaging with youth should be a priority

Not a lot about evangelisation, outreach, mission, catechesis, or knowing about our faith more. Points made more about socialisation – not the importance of vibrant faith. Heavy emphasis upon social side of our parish and relative absence of meaningful comment about the need to develop the spiritual side of the parish. Surprised by how little Christ is mentioned – are we assuming He is at the centre, or have we left Him out?

Lack of comment about the laity not being listened to and given more responsibility when they are willing to take this on.

Inward looking, no reference to the universal Church. How do we fit in with wider Church?

## **How can I contribute to the Dream, of what our parish could look like?**

Pray to bring in youth, lapsed...

Spread the word to those outside the Church. How do we create a Church that people want to engage with?

Contribute my time and efforts, get involved

Support any attempts to move forward, encourage those who have good ideas

Get involved in new trends and changes. To be open and embrace change, and participate in all things

More parish involvement from everyone. Get to know people's names and gifts, learn how to deepen life of fellowship so that we can serve others.

Explore ways to encourage families and find ways to engage young people

Desire to use gifts for the service of God and others, both in the parish and wider community

Keep working as I am doing

Encourage others to overcome their reserve/embarrassment and perhaps fear of commitment.

Mentoring

I need to change, to be open. Listen more to others views, more patience and tolerance.

Encourage people to share their faith.

Shared responsibility, invitation to everyone whilst recognising can't please everyone.

Encourage families to engage, follow-up with people who 'pass through' parish – those who get married or receive sacraments here, or have funerals here. How do we engage with people who come to these events but do not necessarily understand them? How baptisms and weddings and first communions to be more than one-off events.

Bridge with St Joseph's High School. More people in our schools than in our parishes. Scouts?

Need to be filled with the Spirit so that we can communicate the faith.

Formation of adults finishes at school: day retreats, opportunities to develop faith.

Bereavement group

Recognise gifts and use them. Do what we can.

People's real needs rather than needs perceived by us. Feedback from 'nones'. Anonymous online survey?