

## **St Finbar's Glenbrook local plenary review**

At the end of 2019 over 70 parishioners participated in group discussions focusing on what we can do at a local level to enrich our parish. There were 7 groups in total and following their meetings each group presented 3 themes.

In total there were 21 themes. A representative of each group formed another group to see if there were common themes and if they could be consolidated into a smaller number.

Over a series of further meetings the number of themes were able to be consolidated into 6 themes:

- Theme 1: Outreach – Outside the church
- Theme 2: Building Community within our parish
- Theme 3: Ongoing formation of individual and parish
- Theme 4: Prayerful and Eucharistic
- Theme 5: Shared decision making, structure and roles within our parish
- Theme 6: A strong voice for justice in our community

During the meetings parishioners also provided feedback on practical ways in which the themes could be implemented into our parish. The desires for these themes are listed on the following pages.

### **Next Steps:**

To invite parishioners to think about the themes over the next few weeks. This was originally going to occur during March 2020, however with COVID-19 these sessions had to be postponed.

**To invite parishioners to attend a session (up to 1 hour) following each mass on the 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> March, or on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (7pm-8pm).**

At these sessions further discussions on the themes will be had and parishioners will be asked to provide feedback on which themes to focus on first.

Whilst it would be great to address all themes, this will have to occur over time, given resource availability. Therefore, initially understanding where the most enthusiasm lies, will allow identification of which theme(s) to focus on first.

Once the theme(s) for focus are identified further conversations will occur to broaden the practical ideas on how we can see the themes become active in our parish.

## **Theme 1: Outreach – Outside the church**

### **We Desire:**

- To look for opportunities to reach out to those in the community outside the parish, particularly other Christian traditions
- To stand strong together in Faith and God's love, living the Gospel and providing a good witness to those outside the community in words and in action
- To communicate the message of Christ in an understandable way
- To remove stereotypes and judgement.
- To be outward looking and welcoming to all. Meet people where they're at, especially those on the fringes and outside our parish community
- To provide Pastoral Support through various groups to our parishioners and to the broader community

## **Theme 2: Building Community within our parish**

### **We Desire:**

- To build community and have a sense of our parish mission
- To improve communication within the parish and within the wider community
- Greater sharing - create more awareness of the great work/ministries our parish does and that members of our parish do in the community
- More social events
- Regular opportunities to build relationships with fellow parishioners at times other than Mass, breaking down the barriers of age, spirituality and different Mass times
- To engage with all parishioners, - everyone should feel included
- Create clear connections and unity with and between the many expressions of the Catholic Church in Glenbrook, accept and love all even if there are differences of opinion
- To inspire discipleship
- Pastoral Support through various groups - Both for parishioners and our community
- Reach out to St Finbars' school
- Greater inclusion of diversity within the community-particular awareness of gender, age, culture, disability, those marginalised / isolated and adjustments made to facilitate inclusion.
- Encourage people to volunteer
- Make church welcoming

### **Theme 3: Ongoing formation of individual and parish**

#### **We Desire:**

- Prayer and Gospel activities/focus gatherings. eg Bible study groups.
- Build relationship with God
- Formation – to better understand why we believe what we believe so we can outreach through Love
- To make prayer, mass and the sacraments more important in the eyes of the parishioners
- To see more adult faith development, individually and group based.
- To support family faith development
- To see parishioners develop their own spirituality
- Encourage personal prayer and growth (not program-based)
- To have regular catechesis in the parish
- To be substantially formed both within and outside mass, including appropriate formation for our children, teenagers and young adults
- To journey with others in the parish
- Strong personal witness of Faith
- Our own personal witness of Faith should not be overlooked as a source of formation for others.

### **Theme 4: Prayerful and Eucharistic**

#### **We Desire:**

- To listen and act upon what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do within the Parish
- Improved spiritual interaction and nourishment within our parish community and new ways of living and proclaiming the Gospel that move us beyond 1 hour a week on Sunday
- To be more prayerful before mass and encourage personal prayer and growth
- More opportunities for prayer, adoration, praise and worship outside of the mass
- To journey with others in the parish through the sacraments, joyfully celebrating with them as part of our community.

## **Theme 5: Shared decision making, structure and roles within our parish**

### **We Desire:**

- To see leadership shared across the parish, the right people in the right roles
- To see all parishioners develop a wider understanding of the roles in the parish, support each other in ministries and become more involved in them - many hands make light work and prevent burnout
- To see public invitation rather than tap on the shoulder for roles
- Training for those in leadership, current and new
- To support an environment where people are encouraged to try things
- To be more intentional about involvement of the Laity
- To be more transparent in communication, finances and consultation
- To focus on co-responsibility, transparency and accountability.
- To encourage and support youth involvement

## **Theme 6: A strong voice for justice in our community**

### **We Desire:**

- To address the hard issues in society and live out discipleship in our community, through social justice activities
- To minister to the margins, asylum seekers and refugees
- To be a listening and supportive Parish towards Aboriginal reconciliation
- To be responsive to institutional abuse
- To be environmentally aware
- Promote understanding the evangelising and eucharistic connection. Eg. Justice and Eucharist