

BUILDING HOPE – PARISH GATHERING – RESPONSE FROM PARISH

[As submitted on 5 July 2022]

FAITH

4. Looking at the FAITH dimension, what is working well in your parish?

- Eucharist
- Prayer
- Liturgies
- Faith Formation
- Sacramental Preparation

5. Why?

PRAYER

Wednesday 5pm Prayer Service is beautiful; women lead the service; text is provided in advance; new parishioners believe that the parish is progressive; people have good experience of prayer in the Parish.

LITURGIES

Excellent homilies, relevant, memorable and deep; priests' preparation is complimented. Christ's message is central in homilies.

Positivity of the people, who have good experience of liturgy.

Ministers of the Word and Eucharist are good.

The Family Mass has a very positive impact. The quality of the children's responses to the prayers of the Mass and the quality of their reading was complimented.

The webcam and the prayer for Spiritual Communion are very important to the sick and housebound.

Talented musicians / choir organisers.

Adult choir.

FAITH FORMATION

Fr. Kieran O'Mahony's knowledge of Scripture and his Bible Study classes are very helpful.

Appointment of Faith Development Worker.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Parishioners have a good experience of Baptism.

Sacramental preparation for First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation is handled well through the schools.

OTHER

Leadership of Monsignor O'Carroll is exceptional, bringing out the best in people, giving the people both in the Church and on webcam a sense of welcome and belonging and of being appreciated; in particular, his ministry to the sick and housebound was complimented.

Excellent priests in the Parish, complimented on their approachability and leadership, their complementary and contrasting styles, their leadership in giving people hope.

Most of the organisation and work of volunteers in the Parish is done by women.

6.Looking at the FAITH dimension, what is in need of development in your parish?

- Eucharist
- Prayer
- Liturgies
- Faith Formation
- Sacramental Preparation

7.In what way?

EUCCHARIST

Have music at all Masses especially at Communion time.

Encourage wholehearted singing in the Church.

LITURGIES

Need to develop funeral teams.

Adult choir needs new / younger members.

FAITH FORMATION

Work has begun on a baptism team.

Run stimulating courses in the Parish Pastoral Centre to provide faith formation for adults, parents and children.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

More needs to be done in the parish.

OTHER

Find ways to attract and engage teenagers, young people and young families.

The Church building is in need of renovation, with recommendation that seats be removed to create social space.

Invite young people to join social justice groups.

Use social media to connect with and attract young people - but young people also need to be engaged with at their level and also in a more intellectual /substantial way.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

8. Looking at the dimension of SERVANT LEADERSHIP, what is working well in your parish?

- Affirmation of priestly ministry
- Co-Responsibility of Clergy and Lay Faithful
- Active Lay Ministries
- Role of Women
- Youth Involvement
- Pastoral Outreach
- Administration

9. Why?

The quality of welcome extended to parishioners and those joining on line.

The importance of welcoming and including those who are joining online - especially those joining from abroad for special occasions like Christmas or for funerals;

Lay ministry: Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist are all excellent;

Appreciation for the Liturgies including the involvement of the choir and children's Mass;
Appreciation of the lay led introduction to Sunday Masses;

Appreciation for the explanation of the Scriptures and the catechesis;

Appreciation of the schools' involvement in the parish;

Praise for the webcam and website;

Laity wish to be much more involved in parish. Monsignor Ciaran greeting and meeting the people of our parish is a wonderful builder of a community of the lay faithful

Maeve Davidson giving great servant leadership is a very gentle way.

Praise for the commitment of the clergy

Baptism very enjoyable - very lucky with current clergy

Role of women has been and will continue to be crucial in our parish. Their views must be sought (forward looking anyway) and brought into any new strategy.

Webcam was very good during Covid.

10. Looking at the dimension of SERVANT LEADERSHIP, what is in need of development in your parish?

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11. In what way?

People to get to know other names of parishioners important to know by name. Name tags to write a name on for meeting at Parish Pastoral Centre for hospitality.

Blessing of pets / Blessing of School Bags for a new year beginning.

More Ecumenical gatherings / connection with Church of Ireland

People would like to see more outreach to Ukrainian refugees; People want to see charity in action;

Would like the newsletter augmented/restarted;

There is a need to see funerals as important moments of evangelisation;

There is a need for more involvement of the marginalised;

There is a great advantage in having the Parish Pastoral Centre for meetings;

There is a need to make the Parish Pastoral Centre more vibrant- a location where people can make friends in the Community;

There is a need to meet people's anxieties in life and living

Perhaps a Youth Focused Mass for 14 to 21 years?

Get current members to involve 20-50 year old men and women

To hold discussions on Church History at Pastoral Centre

WELCOME

12. Looking at the WELCOME dimension, what is working well in your parish?

- Evangelisation
- Inclusiveness
- Community
- Hospitality
- Communication

13. Why?

Community spirit is strong.

Tea & coffee after Mass in parish centre.

SVDP is active.

Easter & Christmas communications are good.

Family Mass well organised.

AA is active.

Legion of Mary in the parish.

14. Looking at the WELCOME dimension, what is in need of development in your parish?

- Evangelisation
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- Community
- Hospitality
- Communication

15. In what way?

Welcome/greeters at doors of church on Sunday.

Better use of communications needed both online and print. (Newsletter to be restarted?)

Forum for people on edge of belief.

An Alone service.

Use Christmas and Easter holidays to get more involvement.

Mother & Baby Group in the Hall.

Peer ministry.

Greater inclusion of refugees.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

16. Looking at the SOCIAL JUSTICE dimension, what is working well in your parish?

- Advocacy
- Active outreach
- Solidarity
- Accompaniment
- Care of Creation
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17. Why?

ACTIVE OUTREACH

- Thanks to Mary Aikenhead Centre Meals the Meals on Wheels service reaches out to the elderly and the sick and housebound.
- Vincent de Paul has a wonderful history in the parish
- Congregation gives generously to Collections in the Church and to e.g Trócaire and to the Vincent de Paul Annual collections.
- Children are encouraged to show empathy to less fortunate families at Christmas through Toy Donations.
- Family Mass Group coordinate a collection to give financial support to maintain a Lunch Club for a school in Africa.
- As individuals significant members of the Church Community are involved in social justice groups such as Peter McVerry and others.
- At an individual level and through schools young people are very interested in and involved in care for the environment initiatives and climate change advocacy .

- Visits to the Sick and Housebound are organised through the parish.
- Holy Communion brought to many isolated people at home.
- Accompaniment. Those watching on Zoom are always welcomed and included in the Mass.
- We pray for peace in Ukraine.
- Letters from Parish Priest to acknowledge funds received.
- New people from other countries bring strength to our community.

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19. In what way?

CARE OF CREATION

- Establish a Laudato Si Group. Develop awareness round the importance of the Environment.
- God created the world and we must care for what is gifted to us.
- Add a prayer to the Prayers of the Faithful regarding the care of the environment.

YOUNG PEOPLE

- Youth are interested in the Environment and Climate Change.
- Take a lead by inviting and involving youth in small scale projects.
- Reach out to young people through Social Media.
- Community has a broad outreach. Establish some inter generational accompaniment through building connections between Active Retired and students for learning IT Skills and through organising common projects and Talks on the Environment and climate Change.

- More outreach to young people. Encourage them by having a Youth Mass.
- Outreach to Young Parents.

LOOK AFTER MARGINALISED

- Maintain and highlight the fundamental Christian values of Charity and Compassion.
- Highlight the work of Vincent de Paul so we can know more and be involved more.
- Vincent de Paul should be a conduit for our outreach program to support those in need .
- Perhaps there should be a greater link and connection directly with the needs of a poorer parish.
- More information required and explanation about what SHARE collection represents.
- Donnybrook has a lot of people already involved in agencies and organisations. If people are willing to become involved, compile a list of such people if they are willing to offer support or be available for a consultation to support a person in need or give them a steer in the right direction to avail of further support.

ADVOCACY

- Build more awareness of Crosscare and the services they offer right across the community.
- Refugees, Find out what are their needs. Find out how we can be of help to them. Invite them to talk to us. The importance of listening to each other's point of view.
- Advocacy and supportive gestures for countries where help is needed....Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine.
- Provide religious sustenance for specific groups- e.g. Philipinos
- Build a better understanding of the mission of the Legion of Mary and how they contribute to pastoral life and evangelisation today.

COMPASSION AND CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

- Maintain visitation to Housebound and care for the elderly.
- Find out who would like a house visit and then augment the current system by putting a visiting team in place. Priests, Deacons and Laity should be involved.
- Give the Housebound a sense of belonging. Create some event for them in the Pastoral Centre.

LOOKING AFTER THE BEREAVED

Support people with sensitivity and not in an invasive way at time of Funeral.

Establish a Funeral and Bereavement Team.

Start a Bethany Group or identify and let it be known where the nearest Bethany Support Group is available.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR *BUILDING HOPE*

20. Of the strengths you have identified in your parish, which could be shared in a local parish partnership?

Parish Pastoral Centre

Fr Ciaran O'Carroll

Maeve Davidson (Faith Development Worker)

Fr Kieran O'Mahony's scripture study (only in parish until Christmas 2022)

Lectio Divina group

Lay-led evening prayers Wednesday and Thursday

21. With which three, four or five parishes would it make good sense for your parish to be in local partnership?

The material you submit here, suggesting possible parish partnerships, will be considered firstly by your local parish *Building Hope* Leadership Group, following which each parish's submission will be collated by the diocesan *Building Hope* Pastoral Strategy Implementation Group and presented to Archbishop Dermot for his consideration. Further discussion will take place with parishes in the autumn. Following through on the *Building Hope* Task Force Report, all the material submitted will give focus for further discussion and discernment around pastoral renewal at both parish and diocesan levels.

TOP SIX IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

First	Milltown	<i>Small church. Has Funeral Team already. One of the three neighbouring parish which gets priority in admission policy of the Donnybrook Parish National School (St Mary's) – after children of parish, siblings and children of staff members – because it does not have its own national school.</i>
Second	Haddington Road	
Joined Third	Boosterstown	<i>Already connection via shared P.P.</i>
Joined Third	Clonskeagh	
Joined Third	Sandymount	
Fourth	Beechwood	<i>One of the three neighbouring parish which gets priority in admission policy of the Donnybrook Parish</i>

		<i>National School (St Mary's) – after children of parish, siblings and children of staff members – because it does not have its own national school.</i>
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