



St. Mary's Star of the Sea

Your Parishioner Voice

Summary of Feedback Received

I'd like to say a sincere "Thank You" to all who responded to the invitation to have "Your Parishioner Voice" heard, as together we seek to shape the parish in the coming years. Thank you to the 75+ parishioners who so kindly and generously gathered on Sunday, 9th March 2025, and to those others who offered their insights by correspondence. And, of course, a big "thank you" to the Parish Pastoral Council and those 'co-opted' and additional volunteers who helped prepare the meeting, who facilitated its smooth running (within the advertised timeframe!), kept us wonderfully nourished – and all with a sense of joy and enthusiasm: definitely the Holy Spirit at work!

Now it's time to process all the feedback, and to discern "what the Spirit is saying to the Church" here in St Mary, Star of the Sea. We intend that all the comments and recommendations be shared through the parish website and also placed on a noticeboard at the back of the church. A summary will also be published in the weekly bulletin during the Lenten period from 22nd March to 13th April inclusive. I would ask that we seek the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us as we all take time in this Lenten season to consider the collective feedback carefully.

The next stage will be to consider which of the actions recommended can be addressed in 2025/2026 and what resources will be required to ensure they are supported fully. I look forward to reverting to you on this stage after the Easter celebrations have concluded.

With prayerful best wishes and renewed thanks,

Fr. Enda Cunningham, Parish Priest, St. Mary's Star of the Sea



St. Mary's, Star of the Sea Church, Sandymount

Question 1: What notable changes or developments have stood out for you in the past three years?

Decline in Congregation (32)

The decline in the congregation was the topic mentioned most frequently. The impact of Covid and the reduction in attendees in all age groups were both noted. The reduction in attendance from young people was highlighted as being particularly noticeable.

- Mass attendance down.
- How people have drifted away.
- Increase in sports on Sunday means mass attendance down.
- Notice drop in numbers at mass.
- Reducing numbers attending mass.
- Lack of attendance at church.
- Drop in numbers at Mass and those attending bookshop.
- The decrease in numbers attending church.
- Fewer attendees.
- Drop off in younger people.
- Diminishing role in the community. Which could relate to children.
- The absence of young people at the services.
- Average age of congregation. Negative.
- Reduction in attendees at Mass.
- The drop off of mass attendance in older generation.
- Slow increase of congregation after COVID.
- The decline in attendance at Mass.
- Increase in average age of church attendees.
- Post COVID decline in mass attendance have it of church going broken. Negative
- The increase of the number of young families at Mass.
- Children no longer with me.
- Less young families quite striking at certain masses.
- Dwindling numbers at mass.
- Decline in congregation.
- The fragility of the traditional model of the Church and parish as priests age and retire - the traditional tasks of the parish have to pass on to people.
- This is an opportunity and a challenge.
- Community loss since covid
- Three years a growing. Loss of parish folks. And choir members.
- Lack of young people- not a lot done to bring them back
- Fewer and fewer young people at Mass.
- Lack of young people at Mass. Not a lot done to bring them back.
- Reduction of young people at mass, especially after COVID.

Masses (27)

A large number of varying opinions on masses were shared. The timing of masses across parish clusters was raised and the Sports mass also featured.

- Change of Mass times positive on weekdays.
- Traditional days like St. Blaise's day not informed. Not inclusive to next generation.
- Ash Wednesday was very poorly organized. Should have more masses on feast days like this.
- Mass times changes.
- Reduction in number of masses positive.
- Children's Mass - Adults feel excluded.
- Crowds for early Christmas Mass.
- Change in Mass times Weekday s & First Friday.
- The decline in the availability of Holy Mass.
- Change in Mass times.
- Mass times same as Ringsend. Negative.
- Less Sacraments, Masses and Confession.
- Miss the weekly daily 10:00 Mass, especially for Lent and 1st Fridays.
- There should be notice given of what Mass schedules to Sandymount that Ringsend has Mass on every day for Lent. Saint Mary's Haddington Rd. had 12:45 Mass with ashes and we had 7:30am and 6:00 PM.
- Less masses and more funeral masses at usual mass times.
- Sunday 9:00 Mass dropped. 6:00 PM. Mass for a number of months is becoming a children's Mass.
- Drop in number of masses during the week means regulars may seek mass elsewhere and get out of the routine of attending.
- Changed mix of weekday Masses.
- Reduction in number of Masses.
- Supper Mass finished. Positive. Badly organized and regularly started late. Not fair on faithful congregation.
- Masses in Parish Clusters are same time
- Masses for special groups increases attendances. Invites to clubs. Sports mass eye opener. The approach to sports clubs to try and increase the involvement of children.
- Saturday Suppers
- Mass celebrating sports clubs in our community
- Lack of variety of speakers giving homily at Mass
- We as a family loved the family Masses and dinner afterwards in the Parish Hall. My kids still ask if there will be more of them. It was a great opportunity to meet all ages in the Parish. My sons loved chatting to his classmates Grandad who he ordinarily wouldn't have had an opportunity to meet. We miss the children going up to the front of the altar during the sermon and having the sermon addressed specially to them at the 10.30 family mass. The Sports Club Mass was a great celebration for the children of the parish. Changing the Do This In Memory masses to Saturday means there is now never an opportunity to have a

tea/coffee/chat after the family mass on Sunday which is missed by our family. My children are in the choir so we never go to the 12 mass.

Personnel/Priests (23)

The assault on Fr. John, the retirement of Fr. Cormac and the arrival of Fr. Enda, as a new PP, were all noted.

- Harm to our beloved Father John.
- Welcomed our new parish priest, Father Enda. Reduction in numbers vary significant.
- Change of PP from older man to relatively younger man.
- Less priests available.
- Loss of second full time priest.
- Change of PP
- Priests under pressure and facing health issues of their own.
- Father John's assault.
- Father Enda's arrival.
- Health of Father John and Father Cormack.
- Father Enda came. Father Cormac left. Father John retires.
- New PP already bringing life into parish. Good people's skills, encouraging and inclusive.
- Father John gone due to assault.
- Retirement of Father John and Father and Cormac.
- Decline in clergy. Change in parish priest.
- How dependent we are on the clergy for funerals.
- We've had a new priest and the church has been better organized and that is really good.
- New Parish Priest
- Vulnerability of priests as aging happens. Facing a nursing home or being the subject of physical aggressive behavior as per Father John's attack.
- Father John's Injury and its consequences are a stark reminder to us of how near the end we are of our dependence on those in religious life.
- Greater turnover of priests since COVID, which was difficult.
- The fragility of our priests and adaptability of Parish community.
- Incoming new parish priest, (Fr. Enda) with the loss of Fr. Cormac but thankfully the retention of Fr. John. New people bring new vitality.

Community and social (21)

Increases in social activities, particularly the tea after 12 mass and the organ recitals were noted and appreciated, although there is also a request for more of both. Synod and Building Hope work were also noted.

- Cup of tea after 12 noon. Mass positive.
- Cuppa after 12 Mass positive

- Tea and biscuits after Sunday Mass at the back of the church. Great idea. Well done to the folks who organize it.
- Development and use of hospitality as significant events and regular masses.
- Hospitality team.
- Ice cream van after Corpus Christi.
- Sense of community down
- Social activity in parish has increased.
- Additional Social Gatherings
- Social Activity increased
- Attendance at events such as this
- Corpus Cristi Procession
- Not enough social meetings after Mass on Sunday.
- This very Gathering is most positive development
- This meeting is a start in right direction for the development of the Parish
- Due to less attendance at Parish Events I feel less supported/encouraged
- Synod
- Building Hope
- Organist & organ recital
- Organ playing- positive
- Organ recitals which were absolutely fabulous

Music (14)

Music in the parish is mentioned very positively.

- The Music involvement with Children's choir, Soloists, Music contribution is heart of the Parish
- Strong core elements Choir
- The richness of our music liturgy- especially young parishioners involvement
- Children's choir growing in confidence
- The development of a junior choir and the introduction of members into the adult choir has been so uplifting
- Number in Children's choir has dropped significantly
- Singing/ Children's choir
- Development of Children's choir
- I miss the Black Tie choir at Christmas. It filled the church with such energy, enthusiasm and light
- Taize
- Teenagers involved in music
- Repair and use of organ enhances the liturgy/service
- The restoration of the organ in the church
- Role of children

Religious Services (13)

The formation of the funeral team was noted as a positive addition. Children are attending church to receive the sacraments and fewer are attending for this. Ecumenical services are appreciated.

- Formation of Funeral Team
- Funeral Team
- Funeral Team
- Funeral Team
- Funerals increase – positive new Team
- Support given to community/friends at Funerals esp after covid
- The attitude to First Holy Communion and Confirmation - negative
- Young people for sacraments only
- Less interest in sacraments attendance at Catholic schools
- Moving communion preparation for children to 6pm Saturday Mass to facilitate sports events on Sunday mornings
- Leo Cullen talk on participation and team relationships
- Ecumenical Services between Churches
- Inclusion of Religious Churches services

Administration (11)

There were several comments on the role of the PPC over the last few years. The credit card service was noted.

- Lack of information about the role of the Parish Council and who is on the Parish Council
- *Parish team commitment - closed shop?*
- The near total collapse of the PPC system (through no fault of its members - far from it) is the most negative change
- Constancy and commitment of the people working on the Parish Team
- Lack of feedback from PPC on events/initiatives like Supper Mass - why was it dropped? Lack of interest?
- Parish Council missing when they should have been leading when Fr John was indisposed
- Credit Card Tap
- Credit Card payment in Church
- No AGM 2024
- Stagnation in Parish
- Sandymount Parish felt overwhelmed, leaderless, “stuck.”

Communication (7)

- Notice on Green
- Communication

- There is some more communication now than previously as regards parishioners as opposed to from above down - somewhat on positive side but could be stronger
- Getting information about the church and about parish activities for all people in the parish whether attending church or not
- Webcam Facility
- Report on this event in News Four
- Report in News Four about today's meeting

Covid (5)

- Covid
- Covid restrictions lifted
- Covid
- Covid ends
- Recovery from Covid- great effort of priests and people – faithful service

Volunteers (4)

- Volunteers from lay people
- Maybe everyone volunteers
- Lack of Volunteers to assist with various ministries in Parish- eg Liturgy Committee
- *Parish team commitment - closed shop?*

Social Justice (4)

- Concern: No engagement with other nationalities
- Increased sensitivity and sense of Inclusion by the priests
- Inclusive Liturgies struggling to reach out
- Love God. Love your neighbour. Lead by the Faith Community.

Demographic changes (2)

- Demographic change- potential to involve new parish residents
- Big Residential development- will bring pressure on schools

Safety (2)

- To maybe even be safer and to take care for our community
- Church empty and silent during the day. People nervous to visit because of Loiterers

Other (10)

- Scandals still having an effect on Church goers
- I'm a blow in of a few months
- I have had to stand up and DO things in my Parish
- The absence of Holy water in the fonts outside door post covid
- No notable changes occur to me
- Book Table
- Lay Ministries
- Unfortunately I have not seen any notable changes- except for music. I just go to Sunday Mass and haven't had to avail of anything else.
- Silence in Church- more devoted contribution
- Not many changes in past 3 years- good continues to be done. Basic Parish life continues, that is a foundation - positive

Question 2: What actions do you believe should be taken to ensure the Parish thrives in the coming years? List your top three.

Youth (52)

The topic of faith and involvement by the young people and children in the parish was the most significant action parishioners highlighted to ensure the Parish thrives into the future. It was mentioned in over 22% of responses. Suggestions were given as to how mass might be made more inclusive and attractive for young people. Suggestions were also made for religious areas outside of mass but within the church that could help. Finally, suggestions were made for areas outside the church which might help to bring young people back into the church.

- Continue to reach out to schools **Youth**
- Make it a whole family thing **Youth**
- Taize for young people – that Deirdre does is great. (to be encouraged) **Youth**
- Introduce bible study classes for children after 10.30 mass every Sunday morning **Youth**
- Recruitment of Altar Servers **Youth**
- Involve young people **Youth**
- Get involvement from younger people and their parents – mother and toddler gatherings, participation in things like Christmas/Easter pageants **Youth**
- Encourage children and young people to participate **Youth**
- Involve young people in the readings and prayers of the faithful **Youth**
- Encouraging young people to get involved **Youth**

- Revive Altar Servers **Youth**
- Introduce a “Sunday School” type arrangement for young people to gain and improve the parish identity **Youth**
- More inclusion of young people **Youth**
- Acknowledge the exams of young people by putting on a special event for them **Youth**
- Focus on children and families **Youth**
- Establish a Youth Forum, up to age 35 **Youth**
- Bible classes for children similar to Protestant churches while parents are at mass. Children then join for holy communion **Youth**
- Intergenerational participation – continue the practice of intergenerational participation in church, e.g. young and old singing together at mass, e.g. at GAA you will find young and old watching a match together **Youth**
- Collection baskets – kids’ opportunities **Youth**
- Children on the altar **Youth**
- Children’s choir up in organ’s loft, as of old **Youth**
- Get children/teenagers more involved in church activities **Youth**
- Programme to reach out to youth – Saturday mass and social **Youth**
- Encourage children to become involved through music, singing, play, sport and have them participate in the church that it might encourage them back to it **Youth**
- Specific youth mass at a time that suits young families, which is Saturday evening, not Sunday, which clashes with sport **Youth**
- Make children’s mass more inclusive for children, i.e. a simpler version of the gospel **Youth**
- Youth service – not quite mass, music speakers, fun, make it cool for young people to come **Youth**
- For school - to do one mass per month to try to keep the children in touch, use it as a Sodality mass **Youth**
- Shorten the mass for children **Youth**
- Invite the classes from local schools to partake in mass and get involved in the readings, prayers, music, offertory gifts, etc. Altar girls and boys. **Youth**
- Engagement with young families as a follow-on to baptism. How parents can model simple habits, e.g. sign of the cross, simple night prayers, etc. **Youth**
- Revival of altar servers – a unique chance for boys and girls to experience a special involvement of the mass and other ceremonies **Youth**
- Courses or events to attract younger people, especially teenagers (perhaps through music and/or sports) **Youth**
- Prayer group for the youth **Youth**
- Speakers from the Community to talk to the youth **Youth**

- Integrate guitar playing outside of mass, with the training being done specifically to have four or 5 young people leading in their own mass when they are ready to do so **Youth**
- Family is the building block of the future church. Focus on the family accompaniment programme, educate people about it. We have to get up again and move on from the child/priest scandals **Youth**
- Survey of young people in the parish. What do they want? **Youth**
- Every effort to attract young families and hold on to them post-communion and post-confirmation **Youth**
- Encourage younger people by having a youth mass with lay speakers **Youth**
- Make the parish an “attractive” place for young adults **Youth**
- A team be put in place to challenge obstacles to involving teens and younger kids, e.g. child protection requirements – compare to GAA, they manage, why not us? **Youth**
- Youth outreach - the church is their church too – it is not an aging building **Youth**
- Encourage young people back by having events. How do we advertise? **Youth**
- Set up a Youth conference of St. Vincent de Paul to work with poorer parishes in the city **Youth**
- Find out why young people are not engaged and address issues raised. Identify what it would take to get them back **Youth**
- Try to bring younger people into activities in the church where they feel they are being listened to **Youth**
- The 10:30 children’s Mass. In the past we had children’s liturgy with child-friendly readings, and a child-friendly sermon. Now, we still have the really lovely choir with the wonderful Deirdre and colleagues, but it is otherwise as if it is a ‘usual’ Mass with a children’s choir. It would really help those of us bringing children to Mass to have readings they could understand, and to have (sorry) shorter sermons which are child appropriate. I feel on stronger ground to be bold in light of Pope Francis’ view on homilies. If I may speak plainly, sermons on the darker or more mournful themes are not helpful for small children in terms of maintaining attention and also sometimes result in having to address topics that would not be otherwise discussed at a young age. These themes and topics undoubtedly have a place, but if the priority audience is children, the content and style of the homily needs reflection on how best to tailor this important part of the Mass and opportunity for formation. It is a privilege to bring small children to Mass, yet it also requires some effort; feeling that you have contributed to your children’s understanding of the message of Jesus, and they and you have been uplifted by what they have heard and experienced, makes it all the more worthwhile. I’m not sure about bringing the children up to the altar as inevitable fidgeting can really send a parent sweating, but others may feel differently. The choir is a real highlight of the Mass. If there is a preference for two ‘normal’ Masses on a Sunday then we should be upfront about this and not continue to call the 10:30 Mass the Children’s Mass.

- Main issue is how to make our parish for the next generation.
- A Saturday Evening Youth Mass should be made a permanent feature of Saturday evenings as it is in many parishes around the world. This would not negatively impact the Sunday family mass as these are largely two different "groups". Saturday evening is the only time a youth Mass will work - it will not work on a Sunday.
- How do we get more youths involved? How do we get more males involved?
- Introduce an equivalent to the Do This In Memory masses for the confirmation classes. Confirmation should be an all parish celebration as the children are becoming adult members of the church, and should be celebrated as well as taken seriously as a church event. In my experience the children celebrating it don't realise the significance of the event in their life as part of the church. Making the lead up more participatory in the parish might help.

I'd like to see some engagement with the young teens in the parish. When I was a teen in a Redemptorist Parish we had youth ministry, run by the student priests based in our parish for a year or two. It could just be a short 'course' on positive mental attitude or a youth club type gathering but using the gospel or church teachings as the basis for the club.

Themed Masses once a quarter like the sports club Mass, with a social element afterwards.

Community and social (33)

There is a strong request from participants to increase the experience of community in the parish. There were a range of suggestions, most of which came under three categories: (i) more hospitality and events around mass, (ii) more events such as the organ recitals in the church outside of mass and (iii) the provision of a community space.

- More events in Church, such as organ recitals **Community and social**
- Hospitality at one mass every Sunday **Community and social**
- Clerical House visitations on a regular basis **Community and social**
- Promote more musical events, concerts, etc. in the church with a focus on children's participation **Community and social**
- More social activities **Community and social**
- More social engagement, i.e. tea/coffee, etc. **Community and social**
- Activities like Arts done 2024 can be great opportunities could be done more often. Involving groups like sports clubs was excellent **Community and social**
- Raise our profile in community via social and spiritual events **Community and social**

- Encourage more social activities, such as concerts, in the church **Community and social**
- More organ recitals **Community and social**
- Social events i.e. concerts in church, walks, barbeques, outings, pilgrimage places **Community and social**
- Tea/coffee mornings in the Church hall instead of in the back of the church – more inviting and more comfortable for discussions **Community and social**
- Monthly informal gatherings of parish members for social interactions, events, etc. **Community and social**
- Utilise more community space in the church for activities **Community and social**
- Organise more social events around mass, e.g. special masses celebrating the sports clubs. Teas and coffees are a lovely idea after mass on a Sunday **Community and social**
- Have a community centre **Community and social**
- Community space – availability of school hall for programmes, e.g. mediation, exercise, book club? Maybe also use parish meeting rooms **Community and social**
- Greeting all attendees at the beginning and end of each Sunday Mass to create a sense of belonging **Community and social**
- Sociability after Sunday mass to increase the sense of belonging **Community and social**
- More social events in the church hall (to generate a greater sense of belonging) **Community and social**
- Cup of tea on 1st Sunday of the month should be encouraged and widely advertised to build community **Community and social**
- Focus first on community engagement – without that, the congregation will not grow in size or vibrancy. Whilst engagement is not core, it is essential for the delivery of core **Community and social**
- Try to foster a sense of community by leveraging the bond of Christianity that still exists (albeit weaker than before) **Community and social**
- Be mindful of parishioners who are Christian, and value that, but struggle with faith and may need more from the church other than the liturgy, e.g. art, music, social moments after mass **Community and social**
- Community **Community and social**
- Invite a friend/neighbour back to church. Loneliness is a problem **Community and social**
- Church to participate actively in other events happening in the area **Community and social**
- Continue to develop community spirit by encouraging the support of Parish events and other social and sporting activities **Community and social**
- More social gatherings after mass on Sundays, after church, i.e. Christmas, Advent, rehearsals and Easter rehearsal **Community and social**

- More events such as organ recitals to encourage people to attend what is a fabulous spot
- Maybe occasional tea parties – after mass on Sunday or in the mornings
- Try to engage more people including myself
- What does the RCC mean today in Ireland, or in Sandymount parish, as we become a more pluralist society? Is it a community centre along with being a place of worship, etc.?

Religious services (27)

Suggestions including adoration/holy hour, faith classes, retreat/spiritual day, baptismal team, prayer groups and others.

- Introduce a weekly Holy Hour of Adoration **Religious services**
- Have a Corpus Christi Procession from Church to Green and back **Religious services**
- More scriptures and catechesis **Religious services**
- Think we should have a Holy Hour perhaps even on the First Friday or every Friday or once a week, with Exposition, Adoration and the Rosary **Religious services**
- Teaching classes on faith and classes on the Bible **Religious services**
- Formation of a Baptismal Team to begin to accompany families **Religious services**
- Receive Corpus Christi Procession **Religious services**
- Regular Confessions on Sunday before mass **Religious services**
- “In parish” training for various ministries **Religious services**
- Scheduled Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **Religious services**
- Weekly adoration (holy hour) where parishioners come to pray silently **Religious services**
- Bible reading get-togethers in the Church hall **Religious services**
- Spiritual one-day seminars for the parish **Religious services**
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments at evenings maybe one day a week? At times when people are not working **Religious services**
- More interdenominational events **Religious services**
- Opportunity to discuss beliefs, faith, series of talks **Religious services**
- Introduce a weekly Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration **Religious services**
- Corpus Christi Parade **Religious services**
- Baptismal team **Religious services**
- More interaction with other faith churches in the parish **Religious services**
- Adult faith formation **Religious services**
- Organise a parish retreat, entitled “how to pray” to refresh our journey **Religious services**
- Arrange a parish retreat for 5/6 days **Religious services**

- Prayer groups – prayer for healing past hurts. Bethany Bereavement support group. Training for one or two more people **Religious services**
- A communion service rather than mass – two times per week maybe – leaders trained to do this **Religious services**
- Re-introduce Novenas like St. Francis **Religious services**
- Bible readings/interpretation meet-up groups weekly or monthly – adults and children

Communication (25)

The majority of suggestions related to communication fell into two areas: (i) the improvement of the provision of communication from the PPC/church to parishioners and (ii) suggestions for ways to enhance the methods of communication to broaden reach and effectiveness.

- Put mass times for Ringsend and Haddington Road on the newsletter **Communications**
- Make the information of various courses, pastoral care, reading availability – easily accessible **Communications**
- Ensure the Parish Thrives – ensure an active parish council with regular fresh intake of members, communicating their work to parishioners **Communications**
- A social media presence to complement/develop the parish website **Communications**
- Would like to know information about what happens at Parish Council meetings **Communications**
- Visible notices on gate or entrance or any upcoming gatherings or ceremonies taking place **Communications**
- Visual notice and a notice welcoming all **Communications**
- Communication – maybe get visiting people from other parishes in to share how they operate in their committees **Communications**
- Signage inviting people to come into the Church with a way to provide comfort in terms of security **Communication**
- Identify PPC to parish for continuous feedback **Communications**
- Better communication of changes to mass times in the parish **Communications**
- Have these forums for sharing more than once a year **Communications**
- A sense of vibrancy at the noticeboard inside the back of the church **Communications**
- The need to bring all parishioners up to date with occurrences that have been introduced by the parish council. Deliveries of leaflets throughout the parish would achieve this passing on of information **Communications**
- Email the parish newsletter to keep all informed, even those not regularly attending **Communications**

- Welcome new parishioners/residents **Communications**
- Better communication on all aspects of parish activities and life
Communications
- Advertise locally (Tesco, community centre, Dublin Things to Do website, etc.) of events on in the church to reach out to non-mass attendees **Communications**
- See the huge value in the church as a spiritual centre, funerals, baptism, trips, choir, etc. Inform locals **Communications**
- Bringing all ages and cultures together more frequently so they can get to know each other and pass on skills, knowledge, sense of community among us all
Communications
- Cry for help on posters outside church, on print. People will come.
Communications
- Better communication – let the parishioners discern. The Parish Council know what is going on – not the parishioners **Communications**
- Hold many more meetings like these **Communications**
- Let people know what is actually going on. The church is being opened at 6 in the morning, funerals helped with, etc. It is being left up to others **Communications**
- The notice on the hedge on the street. A great communication system to the “mere” passerby. More of that **Communications**

Volunteering (22)

There were 22 recommendations given that volunteering within the parish should grow. Considerations on how the volunteering is structured and what roles people might do were shared. The manner of recruiting volunteers was also raised.

- Create opportunities for volunteering to allow wide community to engage in the parish – bring different skills, example sub-committees of Parish Council
Volunteering
- Development of a new Volunteer Corp **Volunteering**
- Admin roles to be performed by Laity – give more time for priest to administer the sacraments **Volunteering**
- Support for lay leaders in the parish to work on encouraging and keeping parishioners coming **Volunteering**
- Assist in the tasks of the church, candles out, etc. **Volunteering**
- Continuous recruitment of volunteers – starting with recently confirmed
Volunteers
- Establish Committee of Laity – need about 12 Committees and sub-committee. Communications committee and sub-committee. Up to XX of AGMs and Parish Assemblies **Volunteers**
- More contribution from volunteer/lay people **Volunteers**
- More lay people speaking to parishioners **Volunteers**

- Include as many lay committed in all services **Volunteers**
- Entice more volunteers into all aspects of church life, e.g. cleaning **Volunteers**
- Role of lay people in parish for ceremonies **Volunteering**
- Ask the Sandymount area what do they want from their parish church? Bring more males in as volunteers 50:50 **Volunteering**
- Focus on Christian service from all parishioners to all parishioners – what talents you have should be put to use, e.g. 1 gardening skills – used to weed the parish grounds, e.g. 2 cooking skills – used for parish hospitality team e.g. 3 woodwork – used to repair the swollen side door. Ask people to declare their talents **Volunteering**
- If you don't volunteer, make sure you at least try to **Volunteering**
- Invitation to join activities like bringing holy communion to sick, reading, choir etc. **Volunteering**
- Tell everyone the truth: that the old system of parish management has completely collapsed and that if you want the parish to survive, you must make a practical contribution – do some work – from your own estimation of your time and talents. The days of leaving it to others are gone. **Volunteering**
- PPC supports for clergy – we need a separate group to focus on developing lay leadership as this is a big change and needs support from clergy **Volunteering**
- Lay preparation for lay-led liturgies **Volunteering**
- Volunteers who can visit the homebound. Responsibility of Eucharistic Ministers (in absence of priest for mass) **Volunteering**
- Training at parish level to develop ministries in the parish with on-going support **Volunteering**
- Actively approach parishioners to become readers, Eucharistic ministers, etc. so people don't see the same people involved all the time **Volunteering**

Mass (17)

Opinions on the scheduling of mass times, mass length, themes and content were all raised. The Sports Mass was appreciated.

- Shorter sermons on Sundays **Mass**
- Shorter masses and pray that our next pope will continue the work of St. Francis **Mass**
- More special masses, e.g. sports mass **Mass**
- Consider other annual events, novenas? Healing mass? Station mass? **Mass**
- Periodic themed masses e.g. Nollaig na mBan for women, Jan 6th. Could we have guest speakers? **Mass**
- Mass times are fine. **Mass**
- At least one mass in our church each Sunday **Mass**
- Have one mass on Sundays at 11 am **Mass**
- Could the church move with the people, like have mass at the GAA field? **Mass**

- More time for priests to say mass and hear confessions **Mass**
- Mass length – risk that longer masses discourages attendance **Mass**
- Fewer masses, so more people attend each mass. Remove some pews. Have more hospitality. Make the sense of community greater for the people who attend as it feels very empty **Mass**
- Move the 12 noon mass to 11.30 am **Mass**
- Make the sermons more interesting, to draw people in **Mass**
- Make the Sports Mass an annual event **Mass**
- Try to accommodate non-sports times and ceremonies **Mass**
- Relook at homilies – length, content, old testament and its relevance to modern day **Mass**

Administration (15)

There were suggestions made about the PPC and its communication. There was also recommendations made to increase interaction with other parishes, particularly those with whom Sandymount will be partnered. The formation of a Baptism Team was also mentioned.

- Establish a senate of Retired PPC members. Approach this group first. **Administration**
- PPC – Publish agendas and invite comments from parishioners **Administration**
- PPC – about 1, 2, special programme areas for meeting **Administration**
- PPC – Publish minutes of PPC meetings **Administration**
- Use the Synodal approach to help us reach consensus on next steps, just like today **Administration**
- Formation of Baptism Team **Administration**
- Encourage more meetings and cooperation between the various parish groups, e.g. Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, etc., Funeral Group **Administration**
- Discussion groups with other parishes – young and old, male and female **Administration**
- Ensure minimum of one priest is attached to our parish **Administration**
- PPC members be more visible. Have uniform e.g. sash. **Administration**
- C.E. scheme employees for the parish to co-ordinate lay activities. Also for parish office. **Administration**
- More communication with other parishes in our community and their ceremonies. We do not know what was available, e.g. in Lent, Ash Wednesday, what was available in other parishes **Administration**
- Open decision making with a vibrant parish council/board/volunteer group **Administration**
- Include all age groups in decision making. Junior infants to nursing homes **Administration**

- Explore what it means to be part of a “group of parishes” – not just priest covering for each other, shared activities (e.g. choral performances, talks, etc.)

Administration

Social Justice (15)

There is a strong desire from participants that the church facilitates the support of others in the community, particularly the elderly and with those who have moved into the parish from abroad.

- Be there as support for those struggling at whatever phase of life – dealing with children, illness, loneliness – using skills of communication and conflict resolution to bring people closer together. **Social justice**
- Connect with our neighbor in faith, with each other, with the homeless, with the poor, with ourselves **Social justice**
- Engage with foreigners who regularly attend mass **Social justice**
- Support positively those in our community and neighbours by being helpful, cheery and having Christian values “loving your neighbor as yourself...” **Social justice**
- Outreach to elderly or housebound. Offer prayers and a holy communion and a personal link with parish. Themed prayers/advent/lent/rosary, etc. **Social justice**
- To make sure our community is safe and look out for each other **Social justice**
- Become inclusive to new people in the area, e.g. Indian community or new residents in the Glass Bottling complex **Social justice**
- Create a more inclusive parish. Reach out to Indian/Philippino communities **Social justice**
- Compassion **Social justice**
- Elderly – grief is part of life. Aging population need to feel included in changes **Social justice**
- Raise supports available for senior citizens and in particular those living alone **Social justice**
- Loneliness for older people **Social justice**
- Search for new parishioners among the many young and multi-national residents in the area **Social Justice**
- We are a parish in a very wealthy part of Ireland. How can we bring a social justice message more directly into both our Masses and parish action? Perhaps one way would be a reflection at some Masses encouraging us to consider how we use the blessings we have in the service of Christ.
- How can Sandymount church be a leading model of inclusivity and equality for all its community under its hierarchical structure and doctrine?

Building and grounds (13)

A variety of suggestions were made about the church itself including the improvement of certain facilities and the overall experiential appeal of the church itself. The use of the grounds was also raised.

- Make Church a safe space for people – non mass attendees to sit and reflect
Building and grounds
- Remind parishioners and visitor of the architectural interest in our church building
Building and grounds
- Provide facilities for disabled
Building and grounds
- Security – not feeling safe in church
Building and grounds
- Wheelchair access at main door
Building and grounds
- Common Room. Society has become secular – the church can provide a community space for people with similar interests through the church
Building and grounds
- Physical structure of the church – wheelchair accessibility and pews; room opposite bookshop; remove some benches to bring people closer to the altar
Building and grounds
- Have Sunday Mass in large church – other days in smaller room to foster community and continue with webcam
Building and grounds
- Emphasize Laudato Si – rewilding 30% of grounds
Building and grounds
- Green the church and grounds immediately. Humanity and all of nature faces an existential crisis. Demonstrate this by doing something practical
Building and grounds
- Witness to the wider community care of our garden and social action
Building and grounds
- Look at the physical church environment – large church, small attendances – can the entrance to the church be more welcoming?
Building and grounds
- Following the call of Laudato Si I wondered about giving over some of the church grounds to wildlife/meadow? It would be a tangible statement of our commitment to this encyclical.

Music (5)

- Revise the music programme (maybe more folk music) to encourage parishioners to join in singing at mass. Include hymns/participation from other cultures in the community
Music
- Music: Important at beginning, middle and end of services. Modern Music and Hynms
Music
- Continue with the development of the junior choir and its involvement with the adult choir
Music

- Increase use of church organ if possible during services **Music**
- If you play an instrument that no one plays in church, ask Deirdre if you could play that instrument during mass and when the choir sings **Music**

Other (18)

- Avoid demographic perception gaps. Two examples here that I see. (i) The young were seen as disease vectors during Covid. (ii) The old were described as elders. Advised to isolate. It's like World War 2. Some don't know Covid is over
- Build on contact with Leo Cullen and identify other like-minded individuals to share their skills
- Because of "washing" by media of spiritual meanings, don't assume that values of the past are still present in people's awareness. Represent the basics in relevance to today's situations
- Lord, please make us CHIME (Connect, Hope, Integrity, Meaning, Empowerment)
- Pray for the Spirit in Hope CHIME – mass, benediction, novena, rosary
- More priests
- Try to be less judgmental. We are not living in easy times. The world has changed so its time the church changed if it wants to survive. Be more open.
- Where is the brass crucifix as funerals move down the aisle?
- Calling parishioners to engage more through events like Lent, anticipating St. Patrick's Day, etc.
- Don't be afraid to be strong enough to be heard – no need for "denial", be clear and to the point. There are so many excellent views, but nevertheless worthy of being listeners. Parishioners are the way of the future.
- Within our own family, leading by good example
- Make sure you also try to go to 10.30am mass or 12 noon mass every week
- Being of support in our parish through regular attendance at mass and church gatherings, and through the Sandymount Community Centre events
- One size doesn't fit all. We need many initiatives directed to many different groups
- Parish care
- Come to meetings to listen – you might learn something. Also to get involved.
- Give. Giving is Living. Bending – GIVE and Take; ForGIVE – Mercy; GIVE Grace – Truth. These are all love
- Try to engage online mass attendees in parish community

Question 3: What concrete steps should be taken to realise your vision for the Parish and who should be involved?

Volunteers (29)

Volunteers are the greatest resource required to realise the vision. They are needed across a variety of areas. There are suggestions that people play to their strengths, with large numbers asked to get involved in small ways.

- Rather than just ask from the altar, perhaps target people whom parishioners might know to join groups, i.e. flowers, cleaning, etc. What groups are in the parish? Is there a list?
- Register volunteers and people reminded of our need across all ministries.
- Bookshop volunteers need it. Look for volunteers for events and parish council, e.g. ministers of Eucharist, etc.
- People of the parish should get involved.
- Seek out volunteers with specific strengths and talents who would enjoy giving service. Sandy Mount Parachute offer some small payment to volunteers who keep the parish going.
- Parishioners to make the church alive participate regularly. The church is us, the people of God.
- Bring those of us here today to be prepared to row in and pass on former activities and what is needed for all areas.
- Parishioners who have marketing skills and are churchgoers should be asked to help in promoting the church. Give responsibilities to teenagers for certain actions.
- Partner with Clanna Gael for events, activities and attracting volunteers.
- Everyone who benefits from the parish, its schools, its services should be involved. Otherwise you are freeloading and facilitating decline, which is. Pathetic steps. Dialogue dialogue, dialogue in every way by every means.
- Improve lay involvement in all parish matters.
- A more open, cohesive and inclusive church with more Parishioners involved.
- Establish a volunteer register with the skill you can offer and time available. Do it online. Each parishioner looked deeply into self and ask what? Can I do for my parish?
- Ideally everyone. On levels of participation, a lot like when you throw a Pebble into water and you see the ripples move out touching everyone. Realistically, a lot like a swan with a lot of. Structured footwork pedaling to make that happen. Involved. Everyone, including myself, young people.
- Appropriate volunteers.
- It seems to be down to me as an individual to play my part in being part of the parish vision, having this meeting with the smaller group. Interaction has given a real sense of a bigger connection with our parish.
- Volunteering Committee set up to ensure that all aspects of church life are catered for and the work is not left to a handful of people and that all decisions are open and respectful to all parishioners
- Smaller groups to raise the specifics already indicated in earlier questions. Some people may need guidance in the various options already covered.
- Set up training for a Communion Service Team from diocese and encourage people to take part by going to similar. Services in other parishes and seeing how good they are.

- To encourage more people to get involved there should be regular training for different ministries. Maybe a parishioner could talk at the Masses. Needs to be explained to parishioners that more people are needed.
- Continue to expand Funeral and Eucharistic Teams, Collectors, Sacristans, etcetera. Ongoing reviews and trainings and getting a person involved in various ministries to speak at Mass regarding that ministry.
- Create a Baptism Team. (PP Parish Council)
- Baptism follow up team.
- Increase funeral team.
- Baptism team - family accompaniment - commit to a program invite people to take courses. Approach parents who have become known to the sacramental preparers in previous years when their children were being prepared. Ask about their experience. How could it be better? Would they get involved with future classes?
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- Create new ministers of the word team members. (Who: PP Parish Council.)
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- Ask parishioners if they have any talents they'd like to volunteer to be used in the parish, and how they'd envisage using those talents.
- An ideas box at the back do the church. Publish the suggestions and parish response in the weekly bulletin. Then publish an action plan for achieving the suggestion and ask for help 'staffing' it. If people see their ideas are listened to they will be more likely to volunteer to help with it and even take ownership of it.

Communications (26)

A variety of suggestions for improving communications were suggested, including increasing social media communications, creation of a parishioner email database and other methods.

- Improved advertisement of church service and services like Holy Hour, Rosary.
- Communication between parishioners and council. Regular updates of events, activities, views involve parishioners to share their thoughts more. Who? PPC
- Adopt social media to communicate parish news and events
- Communication between generations like transition year to elderly.
- More information on Masses etc. in the other parishes
- Open dialogue, publicity campaign, posters, social media and talk to those in parishes nearby about their initiatives.
- Explain what parish council is and their challenges.
- Build a parish database, emails others like WhatsApp.
- Use network of parishioners to gather data
- Ask for help in Public place, coffee shop and notice boards new line
- Establish a parishioner database and use for communication. Based on volunteer with IT or communication skills.

- Establish a Committee to further actions agreed. WhatsApp groups of parishioners in action areas
- More interaction between different groups.
- Announcement of births, special celebrations at Mass.
- Awareness of services available in Dublin. Welcome to the Parish newsletter. Consider platforms used by children like TikTok.
- Erect a Parish Notice Board on Sandymount Green and in front of the church on the road. Parish Meeting. Who? Marketing Subcommittee.
- Get permission from parents of new baptized to keep them on e-mail. Parish Newsletter.
- Meeting to feedback the suggestions which came out of the meeting.
- Improve signage around the church - sign for toilets. Welcome banner outside of church. Other signs and notices to be looked at.
- Communication - all ages - Social media.
- Interactive online forum where members can connect safely, especially the Young Who? Parish Council to implement.
- Involve online community.
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- Establish a parishioner database and use for communication based on volunteer with IT communication skills.
- Simple suggestion box in prominent place and checked regularly for ideas brought to PPC
- People who watch Mass on webinar invited to contact parish if they would like missalettes or bulletin, seasonal prayers etc. brought to the house or if they would like someone to pray with them.

Youth (27)

A variety of suggestions were made on how to increase youth involvement including engagement with children, schools and parents, adjustments to mass times and structure and community engagement initiatives with TY students.

- Call on young people with skills, musical, artistic, acting to come and see what others are doing - So emphasis is more on togetherness and participation rather than religion, prayer per se. Who? Ask in schools, music teachers, art teachers, etc.
- Engaging young people, ask them who they would like to hear from.
- Masses and services Post First Communion and Confirmation.
- Teen involvement, Local secondary schools, transition year projects in the Parish. Links with older people in nursing homes from schools.
- Carry out a survey in schools. What would encourage the young generation to attend church? How do they see its future?
- For Saturday evening, Youth Mass ask Deirdre to lead on music. Ask for team of parents to give suggestions. Ask for youths to lead. Partner with schools, particularly transition year students. Ask for TY students to do treats, pizza, etc.

- Survey young people to understand why they are not engaged and what we need to do to get them involved. Who? Parish Council.
- Can we hold a similar session with younger people to see what they want for their church's vision? eg. Teens, 20s, thirties, spiritual guidance to community involvement.
- Try to involve more young people through music, etc. Children's liturgy.
- TY students.
- Going into schools, listening to the needs of students. Who with? To move forward in the parish and participate who may be someone with school based experience.
- Groups like the Explorers and groups in Paris should regularly come to the microphone and tell people what is involved, what happens at the group and welcome everybody.
- Initiate a forum around the issue of lack of involvement of younger people in the life of the parish who volunteers from the group of parishioners.
- Follow up with Confirmation Class with youth prayer group in parish. Who? Leaders from convents, perhaps those with youthful outlook. More and innovative services to attract younger people to grow the parish. Churchgoing community should be involved.
- Start a youth club or sports and music. In this forum, we might tap the wisdom and share faith differently.
- Involve the young people of the parish and activities which can be facilitated and supported by the clergy and the Parish Council.
- Parish youth club for Young Parishioners.
- Increase role for children in church. Who? Parents of children making sacraments. Parish Council.
- Ask the children by going into our local schools and asking them what do they want to see.
- Youth Groups
- The local church needs to fund local training to start off activities, for example guitar lessons.
- Change family mass time so it does not clash with sports activities.
- Recruit altar boys in schools. Train groups of boys source gear and equipment.
- Coloring sheets and pencils should be provided at Children's Mass.
- President's Award. Gaisce: Connect the Gaisce Awards with community groups in the church e.g. communities ofChurch ? Reading, Developing Interpersonal skills, Presentational skills
- Ask parishioners if anyone is studying theology or religion for the leaving Cert to volunteer to help with the teen groups.
- Ask for volunteers to take ownership for the running of each of the themed masses.

Community and social (16)

More hospitality after 12 noon mass is suggested. More community-based engagement activities are suggested outside of regular mass.

- Tea coffee after 12 noon Mass on Sunday.
- Meet and greet teams at every Sunday Mass
- Tea/Coffee after Mass. Chat increases sense of belonging and sharing concerns.

- Identify other parishes with growing congregation and see if we can learn from them in terms of increasing engagement. Perhaps form a committee focused on community engagement only, no theological purpose.
- Parish Council work closely with Sandymount Community Centre, getting involved with their activities and encouraging parishioners to meet and walk Coffee, morning exercise, sing.
- More community events in the parish hall. Have more parish functions i.e. music night, bingo, concert, young persons, artists who subcommittee of parish council.
- More engagement.
- Encourage some kind of activity once a month for the senior members of the community. Yoga Dance. Conversation interest groups.
- Hold more events like these also in different formats EG ASCU, Ask School pupils and their parents use social media platforms.
- Develop annual program of events, etc. And circulate to every household.
- More social gatherings.
- Music concerts in church in the evenings to raise money for the parish.
- Parish Social Committee Group.
- More social events after mass. At Christmas and Easter.
- Try and engage more people including myself
- Funding is important to upkeep the church and priest etc. So can events be held in the church ongoing like concerts, community bi-annual themed parties, etc. so that the church can be utilized more.

Administration (13)

Recommendations are that the PPC increases its communication to parishioners, priests are freed from administrative matters and the Your Parishioner Voice exercise is communicated and followed up carefully.

- Employ through government scheme a parish secretary.
- Some form of new parish committee, perhaps expanded at subcommittee level.
- Develop a parish strategic plan. Identify, strengthen. And opportunistic. Who Parish Council.
- Establish a stronger involvement of Parish Council with leadership clear.
- Parish Council changed to Parish Representative committee. With communication of bullet points posted on notice boards after each meeting.
- Change modus operandi of PPC to involve parishioners in program reviews and necessary action.
- Would like more information regarding council meetings as to what is spoken about?
- Priests to discuss how admin roles would be discharged by Laity.
- Priests to be given time to offer Mass and confession. To exclude himself from parish admin duties
- Have a follow up meeting to today's meeting in a month who led by the group who organized today's meeting to give us the feedback on today.
- Arrange AGM ASAP. None in 2024.

- There has to be a follow up to this meeting and action taken. Progress. No point in sticking or post-its and doing nothing.
- Start discussing in a small way. And see how many other churches have done renewal.

Religious Services (13)

A variety of suggestions were offered on how to increase and strengthen religious services.

- Encourage Faith Groups.
- Healing, reflection, meditation, evenings, mornings in the church.
- Focus on prayer as a community, adoration, Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours. Lay Lead. Communal confession service similar to Christmas reconciliation service.
- Return to prayer space and time to be encouraged by the parish.
- Commence a weekly Holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration and develop a local adoration team. Lecture retreat speakers well known. Leo Cullen again.
- Continue to have faith learning activities. Lenten Evening Prayer, Good age-appropriate sermons.
- Laity to become involved in scripture study and catechesis.
- Include parishioners who have degrees qualified, attended courses in liturgy, spirituality, etc.
- Perhaps more lay people preaching or speaking about what their faith means to them. Personalities like Leo Cullen
- Corpus Christi procession between Ringsend and Sandymount.
- Introduce a Corpus Christi procession and develop a committee to arrange it and particularly look after everything needed.
- Lead people offering faith formation to adults.
- Inviting other faiths to visit our church to create a better sense of community.

Social Justice (8)

Connections with St. Vincent de Paul, the elderly and non-nationals are all recommended to increase social justice within the parish.

- Reignite The Bethany team. Perhaps with two levels of helpers? Fully Bethany trained and General Helpers/ Administrators.
- Review and enhance support available to address loneliness of the elderly people in particular WHO Parish Council.
- Reach out to the non-national parishioners and involve them in the life of the parish who priests and parish council.
- Highlight heroic deeds done in homes and parishes
- Social Action Group for Meals on Wheels, visiting the elderly, village tidy up, music.
- Groups like V de P, my knowledge is only them collecting they have not looked for trying to get volunteers. We do not know who are in the groups.
- More closely integrate the Saint Vincent de Paul into the parish. Who should do it? President of the local conference. No one has ever asked me to join this conference in the last 40 years

- Charity group V de Paul.

Building and Grounds (6)

The use of the church space is asked to be reviewed and parish volunteers are suggested to be involved in its upkeep and any improvements.

- Start a Parish Community Center. Use the space in the church who the parish council, parish members, professionals, willing volunteers, youth.
- Space/ Centre. Everyone should be involved. Everyone has a gift. Committee to come up with plan to utilize part of the church premises for community centre to host one day seminars etc. (Who?) Architect, Youth groups, and others with Project Manager skills.
- To change the church space, make it into a Community Centre. Ask the Sandymount Community Centre to use the church as a second venue and fill it. Partner with them. Do classes, old age meetings, etc. in the back of the church. Ask local architects, interior designers to help with the redesign of the church.
- Physical structure of the Church. Any builders in the parish? Any carpenters?
- Change the physical shape of part of the church to allow for more communication, opportunity to chat and to get to know each other. Call on those with expertise to do this. Plumbers, builders, interior designers.
- Drop in centers times hours for different groups, for example Bethany Drop in centre. (Who? Trained volunteers)

Mass (3)

- Provide well prepared, spiritually enlightening and stimulating homilies.
- Perhaps moving mass to 11:30 AM start?
- More music.

Other (12)

- Value of this meeting has come from the top. Full credit to Fr. Enda.
- Implementation is the key.
- The pre COVID we are still recovering from COVID restrictions.
- Equality see women and men as equals at all levels. Priests and representation volunteers. Doctrine. contraception is a crime against women. Representation, 50/50.
- Synodal Listening Show by example rather than tell by doing.
- Church cannot change until the priest mindset changes.
- I don't have a vision for the parish. I just hope it hangs in there as long as I'm around. If the Lord wants it to, it will.
- Incorporate the Church parish. Revise leadership, ownership, mission and vision inclusion to promote faith, hope and love.

- Leverage of already programs of other parishes to see how best to realize our vision and who are involved. Our Catholic Church is a multinational organization. The Church of Ireland is also a national organization and should assist on how to.
- Grow this vision, myself and my vision and connecting. With my family and three neighbors who couldn't be here.
- I don't know.
- I don't have a vision for the parish, but I'd like to know what the parish vision is. I also don't know how the parish is organized so cannot say who should deliver it. Community input into parish vision would be fantastic.

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- Survey young people to understand why they are not engaged and what we need to do to get them involved. Who? Parish Council.
- Can we hold a similar session with younger people to see what they want for their church's vision? eg. Teens, 20s, thirties, spiritual guidance to community involvement.
- Try to involve more young people through music, etc. Children's liturgy.
- TY students.
- Going into schools, listening to the needs of students. Who with? To move forward in the parish and participate who may be someone with school based experience.
- Groups like the Explorers and groups in Paris should regularly come to the microphone and tell people what is involved, what happens at the group and welcome everybody.
- Initiate a forum around the issue of lack of involvement of younger people in the life of the parish who volunteers from the group of parishioners.
- Follow up with Confirmation Class with youth prayer group in parish. Who? Leaders from convents, perhaps those with youthful outlook. More and innovative services to attract younger people to grow the parish. Churchgoing community should be involved.
- Start a youth club or sports and music. In this forum, we might tap the wisdom and share faith differently.
- Involve the young people of the parish and activities which can be facilitated and supported by the clergy and the Parish Council.
- Parish youth club for Young Parishioners.
- Increase role for children in church. Who? Parents of children making sacraments. Parish Council.
- Ask the children by going into our local schools and asking them what do they want to see.
- Youth Groups
- The local church needs to fund local training to start off activities, for example guitar lessons.
- Change family mass time so it does not clash with sports activities.
- Recruit altar boys in schools. Train groups of boys source gear and equipment.
- Coloring sheets and pencils should be provided at Children's Mass.
- President's Award. Gaisce: Connect the Gaisce Awards with community groups in the church e.g. communities ofChurch ? Reading, Developing Interpersonal skills, Presentational skills

Community and social (16)

More hospitality after 12 noon mass is suggested. More community-based engagement activities are suggested outside of regular mass.

- Tea coffee after 12 noon Mass on Sunday.
- Meet and greet teams at every Sunday Mass
- Tea/Coffee after Mass. Chat increases sense of belonging and sharing concerns.
- Identify other parishes with growing congregation and see if we can learn from them in terms of increasing engagement. Perhaps form a committee focused on community engagement only, no theological purpose.
- Parish Council work closely with Sandymount Community Centre, getting involved with their activities and encouraging parishioners to meet and walk Coffee, morning exercise, sing.
- More community events in the parish hall. Have more parish functions i.e. music night, bingo, concert, young persons, artists who subcommittee of parish council.
- More engagement.
- Encourage some kind of activity once a month for the senior members of the community. Yoga Dance. Conversation interest groups.
- Hold more events like these also in different formats EG ASCU, Ask School pupils and their parents use social media platforms.
- Develop annual program of events, etc. And circulate to every household.
- More social gatherings.
- Music concerts in church in the evenings to raise money for the parish.
- Parish Social Committee Group.
- More social events after mass. At Christmas and Easter.
- Try and engage more people including myself
- Funding is important to upkeep the church and priest etc. So can events be held in the church ongoing like concerts, community bi-annual themed parties, etc. so that the church can be utilized more.

Administration (13)

Recommendations are that the PPC increases its communication to parishioners, priests are freed from administrative matters and the Your Parishioner Voice exercise is communicated and followed up carefully.

- Employ through government scheme a parish secretary.
- Some form of new parish committee, perhaps expanded at subcommittee level.
- Develop a parish strategic plan. Identify, strengthen. And opportunistic. Who Parish Council.
- Establish a stronger involvement of Parish Council with leadership clear.
- Parish Council changed to Parish Representative committee. With communication of bullet points posted on notice boards after each meeting.
- Change modus operandi of PPC to involve parishioners in program reviews and necessary action.
- Would like more information regarding council meetings as to what is spoken about?
- Priests to discuss how admin roles would be discharged by Laity.
- Priests to be given time to offer Mass and confession. To exclude himself from parish admin duties

- Have a follow up meeting to today's meeting in a month who led by the group who organized today's meeting to give us the feedback on today.
- Arrange AGM ASAP. None in 2024.
- There has to be a follow up to this meeting and action taken. Progress. No point in sticking or post-its and doing nothing.
- Start discussing in a small way. And see how many other churches have done renewal.

Religious Services (13)

A variety of suggestions were offered on how to increase and strengthen religious services.

- Encourage Faith Groups.
- Healing, reflection, meditation, evenings, mornings in the church.
- Focus on prayer as a community, adoration, Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours. Lay Lead. Communal confession service similar to Christmas reconciliation service.
- Return to prayer space and time to be encouraged by the parish.
- Commence a weekly Holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration and develop a local adoration team. Lecture retreat speakers well known. Leo Cullen again.
- Continue to have faith learning activities. Lenten Evening Prayer, Good age-appropriate sermons.
- Laity to become involved in scripture study and catechesis.
- Include parishioners who have degrees qualified, attended courses in liturgy, spirituality, etc.
- Perhaps more lay people preaching or speaking about what their faith means to them. Personalities like Leo Cullen
- Corpus Christi procession between Ringsend and Sandymount.
- Introduce a Corpus Christi procession and develop a committee to arrange it and particularly look after everything needed.
- Lead people offering faith formation to adults.
- Inviting other faiths to visit our church to create a better sense of community.

Social Justice (8)

Connections with St. Vincent de Paul, the elderly and non-nationals are all recommended to increase social justice within the parish.

- Reignite The Bethany team. Perhaps with two levels of helpers? Fully Bethany trained and General Helpers/ Administrators.
- Review and enhance support available to address loneliness of the elderly people in particular WHO Parish Council.
- Reach out to the non-national parishioners and involve them in the life of the parish who priests and parish council.
- Highlight heroic deeds done in homes and parishes
- Social Action Group for Meals on Wheels, visiting the elderly, village tidy up, music.

- Groups like V de P, my knowledge is only them collecting they have not looked for trying to get volunteers. We do not know who are in the groups.
- More closely integrate the Saint Vincent de Paul into the parish. Who should do it? President of the local conference. No one has ever asked me to join this conference in the last 40 years
- Charity group V de Paul.

Building and Grounds (6)

The use of the church space is asked to be reviewed and parish volunteers are suggested to be involved in its upkeep and any improvements.

- Start a Parish Community Center. Use the space in the church who the parish council, parish members, professionals, willing volunteers, youth.
- Space/ Centre. Everyone should be involved. Everyone has a gift. Committee to come up with plan to utilize part of the church premises for community centre to host one day seminars etc. (Who?) Architect, Youth groups, and others with Project Manager skills.
- To change the church space, make it into a Community Centre. Ask the Sandymount Community Centre to use the church as a second venue and fill it. Partner with them. Do classes, old age meetings, etc. in the back of the church. Ask local architects, interior designers to help with the redesign of the church.
- Physical structure of the Church. Any builders in the parish? Any carpenters?
- Change the physical shape of part of the church to allow for more communication, opportunity to chat and to get to know each other. Call on those with expertise to do this. Plumbers, builders, interior designers.
- Drop in centers times hours for different groups, for example Bethany Drop in centre. (Who? Trained volunteers)

Mass (3)

- Provide well prepared, spiritually enlightening and stimulating homilies.
- Perhaps moving mass to 11:30 AM start?
- More music.

Other (12)

- Value of this meeting has come from the top. Full credit to Fr. Enda.
- Implementation is the key.
- The pre COVID we are still recovering from COVID restrictions.
- Equality see women and men as equals at all levels. Priests and representation volunteers. Doctrine. contraception is a crime against women. Representation, 50/50.
- Synodal Listening Show by example rather than tell by doing.
- Church cannot change until the priest mindset changes.

- I don't have a vision for the parish. I just hope it hangs in there as long as I'm around. If the Lord wants it to, it will.
- Incorporate the Church parish. Revise leadership, ownership, mission and vision inclusion to promote faith, hope and love.
- Leverage of already programs of other parishes to see how best to realize our vision and who are involved. Our Catholic Church is a multinational organization. The Church of Ireland is also a national organization and should assist on how to.
- Grow this vision, myself and my vision and connecting. With my family and three neighbors who couldn't be here.
- I don't know.
- I don't have a vision for the parish, but I'd like to know what the parish vision is. I also don't know how the parish is organized so cannot say who should deliver it. Community input into parish vision would be fantastic.