

## **What have we heard from you?**

Listening and Dialogue sessions have been held at both of our Mass centres and have also been occurring in the homes of parishioners.

We have attempted to loosely group some of the questions or statements that parishioners have had for the council. If something you have shared has been written up incorrectly or you think it has been put in the wrong group please let us know.

### ***Families & Young People***

*God wants us to be a Church that supports families and parents in the ongoing faith and spiritual development of their children.*

*God wants us to be a Church that takes on the responsibility for the continuing education of the faithful in the scriptures and in the beliefs of their religion.*

*The Church should devise ways of being more welcoming and less judgmental of young people and their families – understanding the complexities of families' social and work lives which can keep them from regular Mass attendance.*

*Making the Church relevant today when families are coping with managing conflict, bringing up 'good' kids, paying bills etc.*

*That we be a Church that understands the complexities of families and family life today.*

*Bring children up with the Catechism so that they have the basis and fundamentals of their faith*

*Be creative about nurturing a sense of the Sabbath on a weekly basis – especially for those families whose work commitments keep them from celebrating the Sunday Mass.*

*Family faith formation – eg. How to pray together as a family*

*Supporting a 'religious home' for families to be able to 'hand on' the sacredness of the faith.*

*Merge Catholic school students and parents into involvement in Parish communities to assist parents in the faith education of their children.*

*The Church and the celebrations in the Church should be more relevant to our young people so that they want to attend.*

*God wants us to pray more for the young ones who are pulling away from God.*

## **Ecumenism**

*That we be more open to the reunification of the Christian Churches – losing the language of division and recognizing that the Holy Spirit does not belong only to the Catholic Church.*

*God wants us to move the Christian churches together – to look more at how we are the same rather than how we are different.*

## **Role of women in Church**

*Currently the Church is missing out on or not utilizing a huge reservoir of different wisdom, experiences and thinking. Why are women not encouraged to have a pathway to authentic leadership in the Church, including a road to priesthood? The Church needs to understand that the Holy Spirit is also acting through women.*

*Women should be included in all levels of Church decision making.*

*Bring women into leadership roles in the Church and recognize their wisdom and experience are gifts of the Spirit.*

*Can we encourage women into leadership in the upper echelons of the Church?*

*Remove 'gender' from the leadership / ministry structures of the Church.*

*Church is sexist and hence irrelevant to many of today's young people – males in power only.*

## **Leadership of the Church**

*In order to preserve the well-being of our priests and to provide them emotional support in their ministry that we allow them to marry should they choose and that we ordain women.*

*God wants the Church to give more power to the faithful and listen to their ideas*

*Listen to what grass roots people want and think in such a way that we know we are being heard and listened to.*

*People are cynical about listening due to prior experiences with the 'Listening Church'. We want 'proof' that the Church is listening.*

### ***Inclusivity / Community***

*That we become a Church that welcomes and values everyone regardless of their race, gender or age.*

*We should encourage greater development of community and sense of belonging to community in our Church so that people want to be involved in all aspects of Church life.*

*Don't be disillusioned. Do be in community – love one another as He loves us.*

*Acceptance and Tolerance, building community regardless of difference*

*Acceptance of all regardless of and inclusive of differences*

*God's love and care will reach out to all*

*To be accepting of everyone – not tolerant – remembering that Jesus was a refugee.*

*Reach out to the elderly members of our community who have moved into nursing homes so that they continue to feel part of our community*

### ***God is love***

*The Church needs to understand that God is pure love and we should listen to the voice of God who speaks to us as a friend and a child.*

*God wants the Church to have direction and to move forward in love – to embrace change.*

*God wants us to understand that He is a God of peace and that He wants us to live in peace*

### ***Sacramental Programs***

*Have Sacramental formation for children when families come and request it, not as advertised by the parish.*

*Protect the sacramentality of the sacraments.*

*To reconsider the age of reception of Sacraments – many children, even following the education/instruction in the sacramental program are too young to understand what they are committing themselves to – ie too young for confirmation.*

## **Spiritual / Faith Development**

*To take time out: to pray; to meditate; for the awareness of others; to BE the face of Jesus To the face of Jesus.*

*The Church should encourage more prayer groups and serious Bible study.*

*Make the Church more relevant to today's Australian society. For example, up to date adult faith education; marriage of divorced people.*

*Teaching and Supporting the growth in relationship with Jesus*

## **Faith in practice – a visual Church**

*We should be a vibrant Church that presents the faithful with a sense of hope in the future in these constantly changing times.*

*That our faith not be just a part of our life but that it be fluid, flowing, absorbed and integrated in our life. That our faith is not juxtaposed to life.*

*Be bold as Christians*

*Take the Church to the streets – processions in the streets, Lenten, feast days etc – keep the community together – show who we are and what we believe.*

*To resist, to be bold in the face of adversity – ie. Faith in practice.*

## **General**

*Acknowledge that there are so many good people in the Church.*

*Address that people are disillusioned with the Church.*

*Why have we lost the prayer about Satan and his wiles from the end of the Mass?*

*God wants us to protect the universality of the Church. How much can the Church in Australia change before we lose the essence of who we are?*