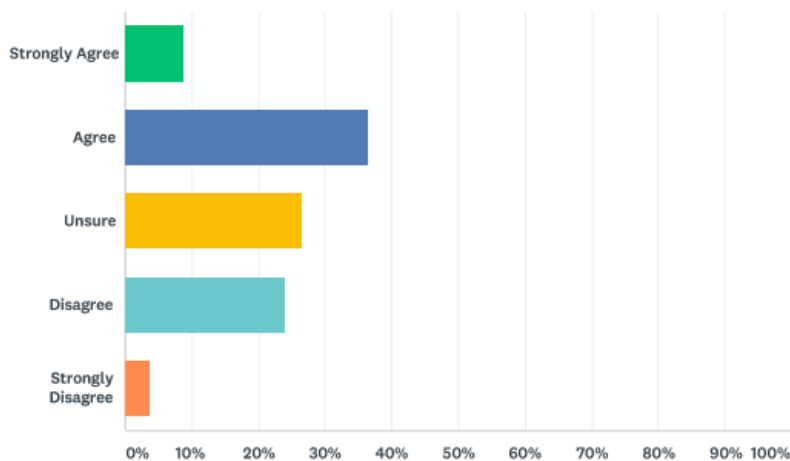


# Parish Pastoral Council Survey Feedback Phase (2018)

## Feedback Topic 4: Q6. Overall, St Mary's Parish is going well.

### Q6 Overall, St Mary's Parish is going well.

Answered: 79 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly Agree	8.86%	7
Agree	36.71%	29
Unsure	26.58%	21
Disagree	24.05%	19
Strongly Disagree	3.80%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>79</b>

### STRONGLY AGREE

*#2 It is a huge part of the fabric of my life and devotion*

*#3 As a member of the Parish for 37 years, I feel a very strong connection to St. Marys. It is only when I travel and it is sometimes difficult to find a a Catholic Church to attend Mass in English( or even other languages) that makes me appreciate what I have here.*

*#4 St Mary's is very important to me, as it's where our children went to School, and we've spent many hours on Committees as well as in clubs such as the Babysitting club, tuckshop committee, tennis club, Parish Council as well as attending Mass each Sunday.*

*#5 I am a practicing Catholic and St Marys is our family Church for the last 4 generations of our family*

*#7 I want my children to grow up loving God and Jesus and I need the support of St Mary's church to do this. I don't want to have to leave.*

*#11 We have been attending St Mary's since our move to this are some 30 year's ago.*

*#18 Sure, it's important. Believers need one another to build each and everyone of us up. Encourage one another. This is the body of Christ, each member has their function and value. St Paul explained this in his letters.*

*#19 As catholics we need a place where we can worship and enrich our lives spiritually.*

*#22 Sunday Mass v important to me.*

*#24 I have received SO much from our priests, both past and present, the sacraments and*

# The survey respondent's identification number. All responses assigned to, for example, #1 are from the same respondent. Italics used to indicate these are respondent's words including uppercase text when used by respondent. 20 June 2018.

Words in green are comments from the PPC.

*opportunity for prayer within the parish have changed my life and the life of my family. Which is why if I am critical it is only because I care about St Mary's.*

*#25 Strongly agree of St Mary's importance, because that is our Centre, where we have been planted to grow and develop spiritually and lovingly amongst Jesus' followers in our time. To be nourished there has been of much significance, and I think many feel this nourishment is not as available as it was, and it is being felt deeply by many. Hence, the sadness of some!*

*#26 It has inspired a member of my family to become involved in a way I never expected and I thank those who made it so welcoming. So often we see our children walk away hurt and angry (and sometimes for very good reason). It is encouraging to see a mixture of old and young being involved.*

*#27 I have grown up with St Mary's and I am so proud to be part of such an amazing community. I have always felt welcomed, and the support of the community has never failed me.*

*#34 Its like a good friend of mine used to say that it was her "spiritual home" and thats what it is to me. Its a place where I find comfort can have the time to reflect and pray while also having that feeling of welcome, joy and peace.*

*#35 I love St Mary's and the community of wonderful people who have been nurturing and true friends for so long. It is the place I feel spiritually at home*

*#36 We live in Bundoora and should really be going to St Damien's instead. But we have been attending St Mary's since 1996 (we used to live in watsonia). Father Steve has always been kind to us, and very supportive especially when we had the house fire in 2004, not to mention the many times we lost family members over the years and he was always there to pray for us and our family. We will never forget his kindness. Fr Dong is always very supportive too. St Marys Parish will always be special to me and my family*

*#39 It is very important to me. It is where I send my kids to school to be a part of the village that makes them into responsible, kind citizens. I want them to learn important values by seeing them in the everyday work of the school and parish. Kids learn by what they do and see. I want us to walk the walk, as well as talk the talk. In about a year when our house build is complete, we will also be moving to Greensborough and St Mary's will be our closest church (currently in St Francis Xavier parish). I would love to make the transition to the St Mary's parish when the time is right.*

*#42 It is what helps me and my family spiritually and has been a significant factor in ensuring the Catholic values are being passed on to our children.*

*#43 I've grown up as part of the Parish and will always consider it my spiritual home. And I would like to the see the Parish evolve, grow and improve with the times by making changes that will see increased numbers at Mass.*

*#46 48 years as parishioners. 9 children through the school. Involved in parish life all that time and till involved. So St Mary's is important to us, even though we are now in St Thomas' parish.*

*#49 Its always been a way of life since we came to Greensborough and our kids went through St marys and we made so many friends and did so many activities with them .*

*#54 ST. MARY'S PARISH IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO EDUCATE, INSPIRE & IMPROVE OUR TOGETHERNESS AS A COMMUNITY & TO HELP TO BUILD WHAT WE HAVE COME TO ENJOY AS OUR WAY OF LIFE.*

*#55 It's my spiritual home where lean feel safe and not be ridiculed.*

*#59 IT PROVIDES NOT ONLY SPIRITUAL SUPPORT, BUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF BELONGING. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE PRIESTS WHO ARE EXCELLENT SPEAKERS, WHO ALWAYS PRESENT MEANINGFUL & MEMORABLE SERMONS*

*#62 We notice with lesser people. We love it as our Parish Community. People care about each other.*

*#68 St.Mary's parish is important [vey important] to me. Apart from my own mind [soul & spirit] and family it is my only active contact with our God.*

*#69 I find St. Mary's to be a friendly welcoming Community Frs. Steve & Dong are truly dedicated in their living and preaching the Word of God and are so caring and thoughtful with regard to their Parishioners !*

*#70 It is lovely to have a Parish Close to home & very relevant to me.*

*#71 The Priests who have violated our children have almost destroyed our church which has been a big (double underlined) part of my life*

*#77 The mass and communion are a source of strength and comfort in these horrible times. On top of that the ministry of Fr Steve is a great example of what we might aspire to be*

*#80 It has provided me with strong foundations. Something I had been missing. I am proud to say that I belong to St Mary's. I love the friends that I have made and the ongoing development of my faith that St Mary's has inspired. The preparedness to openly communicate, no matter the topic, by Parish leaders, is much appreciated and desired.*

**AGREE**

*#14 St Marys WAS important to me! .... (Comments made here about parish staff have been noted and passed on, but not included here because of their sensitive nature) ..... when i speak to father Steve or Jacinta thhen i still feel apart of St Marys parish.*

*#17 Faith development is families, parish and school. Our children are more rounded because of the people the have met through the parish and they get a better sense of community*

*#28 We visited two other parishes before we settled on St Marys Greensborough. The parishioners are friendly and there appear to be many activities going on and Steven Rigo's homilies are well worth listening to. However with his additional duties now, that 'attraction' is fading away. I hope others can fill that gap, though currently it is not promising*

*#29 Having been with St Mary's since about 1974, the parish is part of my life.*

*#33 St Marys has been my parish for many years and I would prefer it to remain so.*

*#37 I grew up in the Catholic Religion, I pray at least once a day; I believe this gives me comfort, keeps me strong and resilient and mindful - it has helped me to stay sane. (Though without a bit of insight into some Buddhist beliefs through yoga ie forgiving oneself, relaxation techniques, awareness of ego etc, I may not have stayed sane - the catholic beliefs of old were also very narrow minded and brain washing and didn't help my self esteem, possibly made me a more anxious person.) Praying together in a community is important to me; my children went to Sunday School at St Mary's; I believed that was the most important part of their education. 2 of my children chose to continue on with the faith, however they haven't been in recent years, apart from Christmas, they haven't told me but I suspect it's because of the child abuse issues. I was educated by a beautiful order of Nuns, and really appreciate their teaching, and that I didn't grow up to be spiritually deprived.*

*#38 It is my local parish & my children attended school here. However, my only involvement us to attend Sunday Mass.*

*#45 It's a place for me to go and reflect on what's important in terms of how I treat others*

*#51 I have been part of this parish for many years, and one of the strongest draw cards was Fr. Steve, and his sermons, and the genuine welcoming aspect of the parish. This has all changed now. Many people still try very hard, but there is something missing now*

*#57 Because it is the centre of Catholic life for our area*

*#58 Until retirement I had little involvement with the Parish, even though I had children at these and attended Mass an Sunday. Now the Parish is my so and attended Mass on Sunday. Now the Parish is my social hub and centre of my spiritual life. Before retirement there are so many calls on one's time etc. that Church life falls by wayside.*

*#60 All Parish life wherever it is is important to any church going community*

*#65 MASS IS TRULY PRAYERFUL ESPECIALLY WHEN FR. STEVE SAYS MASS.*

*#73 All the parishes that I go to, to attend Mass, are important to me.*

*#76 At times I have strongly considered abandoning my parish and "church shopping" to seek a more nurturing community and more consistently good preaching. However so far I have put my loyalty to my community ahead of my own personal satisfaction.*

### UNSURE

*#6 "Unsure" because it is important to some but obviously of little importance to others (based on Mass attendance and involvement in the Parish).*

*#10 I would normally say agree, but I am struggling with the institution of the church.*

*#16 Having been within the Parish for 5 years, I feel more a part of the school community than the Parish. I'm not sure I would use either Priest as my religious counsel as I don't feel that they would be able to have insight into my situation. I don't feel very connected with the Church as a woman; I do feel that the issues that are important to me are not able to be addressed as the rulings of the Vatican are archaic and out of touch with modern women. The family preparation for sacraments night was so horribly wrong, as we were shown a film about how a woman would only be forgiven for an abortion if she was truly sorry. As a health care worker, the damage that this persistence of blaming a woman and not taking into account any circumstances, or placing any responsibility on the father, can do to the psyche of a person can have lifelong effects, and sometimes cause generational trauma. I had to work through a lot of anger after that evening, and had many hours of soul searching as to whether I wanted my children to receive sacraments within the Catholic Church. I'm honestly not sure whether I will attend another faith night.*

*Any judgement or damage was unintended and we are sorry if this has happened. You have alerted us to be more sensitive.*

*#20 The modern conservative church is slowly losing relevance in today's society where political change is challenging the extreme conservative values, society is rapidly moving to a 7 day week, 24hrs Day constant & endless*

### DISAGREE

*#13 Did not support us during a difficult time with our children*

*The above respondent has been followed up in person.*

*#31 I go to Mass in other parishes as often as I come to St Mary's. I know that many aren't faring much better. We are trying to ask too much of too few people and putting energy and effort into things (like a school) that gives little but takes a lot.*

### STRONGLY DISAGREE

*#78 A very small group keep me at St Mary's. I could easily walk away. My answers are my reasons/  
#81 I feel that it has lost the importance of truth and the importance of the value of people. For me, I feel that the God I believe in and follow is not the same God that is followed by the leader of the church at St Mary's.*

*The above respondent has been followed up in person.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup>We have been able to follow up some respondents who have expressed a particular hurt, because they have provided their names on the survey.