

Historically Definitive Events – St Thomas

2021

COVID We have been able to come back to Masses in person and Easter and First Eucharist this year were different to not being able to be at the Easter celebrations or celebrate First Eucharist Masses last year.

People are coming back to Masses, but it's very slow

Some have not/may not come back

Having to sign in or check in

Mass was videod

The Message Board was initiated as a way to communicate

Dixon has arrived

The Plenary Council has been delayed and we don't hear not much news re the Plenary

Limited resources now

Changes in Governance so that Parish Priest no longer has a Governance role with the parish schools

With COVID – as people had been apart for so long, there was joy and celebration at seeing people again, after such a long separation.

Realisation that “I had been grieving all last year about not being here and not seeing people and not sharing.

Concern about whether people will actually come back.

Some are afraid they will be turned away, because they can't use QR code as they don't access technology.

Hope – helping people connect

Fear of crowds

Fear in the community

Videod Mass may make people too comfortable, so they don't come, but they miss the community aspect.

Dixon has a great smile. He is friendly, youthful, accommodating and open. His theology of priesthood is one of service and humility. He is not clerical.

People are reluctant to say 'No' when sked to help. It isn't fair. People will be burnt out and cheesed off.

Plenary – there seems to be a vacuum. This is frustrating. Confidence reduces by the day that it will achieve something. Wondering when it will have momentum. Hoping for changes, particularly re clericalism and women. We want progress.

2020

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COVID

People became more caring, compassionate and aware of those alone. We have not been able to touch.

Impact on finances is concerning. The Government was supported us well with Job-keeper

Tao's reflections were good There was a massive reduction in workload for the Liturgy Team, e.g. slide shows for Mass and making sure all the little things were covered.

The Noticeboard was a great way to keep people in touch

A culture of **authentic care and compassion emerged**. This needs to be held and nurtured.

Huge distractions in our lives were gone. We were able to find a new perspective and new priorities. Small things become terribly precious. We have become aware of the environment and the damage done. We have become more flexible and accepting.

Human touch is very important. We want to caring to continue. Reach out Recognition of how important it is to be connected.

There was time for reflection, listening to stillness. Everything stopped. It was peaceful but also scary (the unknown).

Communication is very important. We need to take care with our emails

2019

Parish fete – The parish office was asked if they wanted a stall in the fete. The person involved replied in the negative. The date chosen for the fete was the catechist class first Eucharist.

Over the years there has been a disconnect in relation to young families and Mass Desire from School Advisory Council to connect with the parish

Constant change in parish leadership – Assistant priests who are given leadership roles, move – Lenin left and Dixon is here. We don't have a pastoral associate.

Fete – the school originally helped to support the fete and funds went to the parish. It was a good event for the community. Over time it became a school fete. The communication and consultation about the timing of the fete and the organisation of the fete has diminished or is not there at all.

We haven't worked enough on the generational change. We should be **asking what the young families want and we should ask ourselves, what do we want to pass on?**

We need to be authentically welcoming.

We need to **find ways to collaborate with the School Advisory Council. We need to work to have the school and parish calendars cooperate. We should reach out and invite connection.**

The young don't have a sense of connection to hierarchical Church. They see hypocrisy and betrayal

Changes in assistant priests and deacons and not having a pastoral associate undermines stability and support. **We need a sense of stability.**

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2015

Dissolution of small groups – Movement for a Better World

Faith and Social Justice and Social connection lost. We are getting tired. It's always the same people

The Sexual Abuse crisis

There was a loss of connection. We lost what we had. We lost the social side of the community. We don't have anything social anymore.

Is it time to regather in small groups or socially, now? We need some kind of coordinator

The young don't have a sense of connection to the hierarchical Church. They see hypocrisy and betrayal

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Year???

First Mass in this church. We started that Sunday, with the Introductory Rites in the hall and then the Liturgy of the Word in the church, with everyone carrying the requisites into the church.

The significance and pride in the design of the building

There was a link and camaraderie between the school and the parish

The movement into the church was part of our growing up. There is an ownership of the building, like a family moving into its own house. The church was packed

Recognition that some people don't understand the design of the church. **Work could be done to orient people to the design. A sense of belonging comes from a sense of sharing. You own the story when you belong.** Include ongoing connections for people.

Perhaps we can have **class Masses** again

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Year/s???

Change in parish priest

The partnership with Sacred Heart Parish

Michael McEntee was moved

We felt a **sense of powerlessness**. We didn't have a say in it.

The partnership with Sacred Heart was **on St Thomas' terms**

There was a sense of anger because Michael was moved, as he was approaching retirement, to a parish that needed help.

Kevin McIntosh and Michael McEntee were very different people. Kevin talked a lot about money. Michael was more pastoral... a servant priest.