

St Louis' & St Brigid's Parish Pastoral Plan Information & Feedback sessions summary

Sessions conducted with: PPC; School Education Boards; Representatives from YAG, JAG, Liturgy & Choir & Men's Group – 55 participants, held February – March 2018.

First Thoughts

- The responses were unanimously positive.
- The Plan is seen as exciting, positive, visionary and re-energising.
- The inclusiveness of all community groups, gender equality and all ages is appreciated.
- The 5 chosen priority areas are well received.
- People acknowledged that we are already doing some wonderful work in our parishes, but more can be done and the Plan gives us the opportunity to grow.
- It was felt that much could be learned from school initiatives around community e.g Facebook pages, aged care visits, sustainability focus.
- There is a lack of awareness of the various Parish Groups.
- It was felt that the Plan will make us stronger and allow us to work better as one parish.

How is the Parish performing currently?

Plan Priority	Doing Well	Doing OK	Doing Poorly	Unsure
Support Family Life	2	32	6	12
Connect with Youth	4	15	23	10
Treasure our Seniors	11	21	12	8
Strong Parish Groups	16	24	4	11
Liturgy & Spirituality	11	23	5	5
Evangelisation	4	12	15	19

Challenges

- By far the biggest challenge identified was ensuring enough people volunteer to take on responsibility for the Plan actions.
- Close behind was the issue of non-engagement of school families in church and parish life. (To be fair though I believe there is an absence of awareness of the many good things that are happening in our schools. For many the yardstick is church attendance.)
- Tackling conservatism, clinging to old ways, being open to new suggestions.
- Ageing population, yet vital to retain connections and appreciate the contributions and loyalty of older parishioners.
- How to engage youth?
- A feeling that Aspendale parish has progressed more than St Brigid's – how to address and achieve balance?
- Improving our knowledge of who needs support in our community, privacy issues?
- Social media – how best to use?
- Engaging the wider community, making sure people are welcomed and don't feel like outsiders.
- Making the church relevant, modern, current day.
- Financial and space constraints.
- Getting people to see the Plan as part of their lives, not an added extra commitment.