

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLENARY COUNCIL FOR ACTION

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising?

For our Australian Church

- Careful consideration and assessment of all applicants to enter the clergy and religious life to determine their suitability for and commitment to this important work.
- Review and change to the training and formation of those wishing to enter the clergy and religious life. We believe that they should not be trained as an 'elite in the Church, seen to be 'special' and separate, which perpetuates clericalism. We believe that they need to be one with the people. They need to have a deep and true understanding of the Gospels so that this may be conveyed in a meaningful way to the people they work with and for.
- Develop new, and extend and support, current youth outreach programs. We believe that we need to engage with our young people and encourage their faith through their work in social justice programs such as Vinnies, and the work of the Edmund Rice Centre (Amberley) which offers personal formation, experiential learning and the development of skills and understanding for social change. We believe that youth-led initiatives and training would be more successful with the young. These programs need to be fully funded and resourced and we believe that the Church should liquidate assets to provide this funding.
- We believe that the Church should provide the necessary resources to Catholic schools to help them to further develop their outreach and social justice programs as a way for all our young people to purposefully participate in their local communities and so deepen their faith through action. Once again we believe that the Church should liquidate assets to provide this funding.
- We believe that our liturgies and music should be reviewed so that they are more meaningful to participants and more fully engage them. This may include obtaining permissions for the use of music not traditionally used in liturgies and the development of a new musical tradition for the Church.
- We believe that more pastoral associates and workers should be trained and appointed to support parish and local communities. We believe that these workers should be recognised and compensated appropriately for the skills and understanding they bring to a pastoral team.
- We believe that Church leadership should speak out strongly about social justice issues, based on the teachings and example of Jesus.

For our Australia Church and the Church throughout the world

- We believe that the Church worldwide needs to hold a 'Sorry Day'. We believe that the Church as a whole needs to explicitly apologise and take responsibility for the abuse suffered by so many people over a long period of time.

We believe the Church as a whole needs to apologise and take responsibility for the marginalisation and neglect of many people who have been turned away from the Church over a long period of time.

Local actions for the parish of St Thomas the Apostle

- We believe that our liturgies and music should be reviewed so that they are more meaningful to parishioners and more fully engage them.
- In order to publicise and promote the good work that is being done through the Church in our community, we recommend that local workers are invited to speak at our Masses and other gatherings about their activities, to demonstrate faith in action.
- Encourage a youth Mass to be established with the liturgy and music prepared by the young people of the parish.
- Invite parishioners to be part of a roster to write the weekly Prayers of the Faithful that are relevant and topical to our local and broader community.
- With the parish newsletter, *the Grapevine*, no longer being distributed in hard copy, consider practical ways to keep in touch with and reach out to parishioners and other Catholics, particularly those who no longer attend Church services.
- Establish a strong connection with the choirs and/or bands of our local Catholic primary and secondary schools and invite them to participate in various liturgies throughout the year.
- Establish a family day Mass on the first Sunday of Advent each year. At this Mass the crib would be blessed and filled by the children with the various figures representing the birth of Jesus. The children would be encouraged to bring their own cribs along for a blessing.