



Beginning a conversation...

Our group is made up of the following number from HC&StF. 2; HT. 2; SH. 0; StN. 3

CONCERNS: ① AGE OF PARISHIONERS ATTENDING THIS MEETING - NO YOUNG PERSONS WHO ARE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH. ② PARISHES ARE NOW MULTI-CULTURAL. THESE SEEM NOT TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

③ FAMILY ORIENTATED ACTIVITIES HAVE NOW ERODED - NOTHING PUT IN PLACE. ④ CHURCHES NEED NEW PEOPLE TO CREATE / FORM NEW ACTIVITIES

⑤ DEACONS NEED TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM "LAST RITES" FOR DYING / SICK.

LIKES: POSITIVE ON THE MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC

⑥ SUTTON COLDFIELD, BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER. ONE PARISH ALREADY HAVE PRAYER GATHERING AFTER MASS - SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN ALL

PARISHES.

⑦ Parish Halls should have discos ON SATURDAY NIGHTS.



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Concerns

⑥ Younger people involved	numbers engaged who is involved in discussion
① Age/demographics	stability needs to embrace young + consider needs
② practicality vs future resources	e.g. capital access, spiritual
③ Vocationalism	role of women + men
④ Involvement of laity	formally, organisationally, informally
⑤ Expectations of clergy	Are they managers, financiers, counsellors, or spiritual/sacramental leaders



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Our group is made up of the following number from HC&StF...¹...; HT.....; SH...⁵; StN...¹

5 Sacred Heart, 1 Holy Cross and Saint Francis
1 from Saint Nicholas
a lot of parishes have been closed

- 1) What is going to happen with regard to Priests?
- * 2) Everyone wants to keep their parishes.

3) Nobody under 30. Mostly elderly, are the young people concerned?

4) Keep the parishes, and keep strong Parish Councils.

5) Centralize Masses at particular parishes, where everyone may come to.

* 6) Sunday Mass at least one in each parish.

7) One central office to control all the parishes in the cluster.

* 8) Strong connection between Priests and Headteachers + Academics

9) Married priests, to provide support to Priests. Priests are busy.



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HOLY CROSS & ST FRANCIS

AGING CONGREGATION - SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC POPULATION DECLINING?

{ MORE DEACONS - COMMUNION SERVICE - TAKE PRESSURE OFF PRIESTS!
{ USED

WOMEN LIT - ATTITUDE OF PRIESTS

CLERGY MUST TRUST LIT

LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT ATTENDING MASS



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Our group is made up of the following number from HC&StF.....; HT.....; SH.2.; StN.4.

Present concerns

A. age profile of practising Catholics in Sutton

B. compared to when our children were young
so few children regularly attend church

C. Challenge of secular world

- loss of late teenagers onwards.
- story being told by Catholic church is different from ~~what goes on around us~~ stories

that we hear every day from the world

Christian vision

1. ~~What methods, ideas, ideas, ideas, ideas~~

How does the church articulate a vision of various important matters - injustice, poverty, environment, disadvantage - that makes ~~the~~

sense to its members, and potential members.

2. Role of laity ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{lapsed members} spreading and sharing responsibility - need to change - not just because there are fewer priests

3. Education of Catholic laity



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<p>HOLY CROSS HOLY TRINITY SACRED HEART ST NICK'S.</p>	<p>3 2+2</p>	<p>↑ varies where are the younger people. ✓ Not diverse (representation of the congregation)</p>
<p>✓ How do we get more priests. ✓ WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE LATERCESED CLERGY - LEFT PRIESTHOOD + NOT THE CHURCH ALLOW PRIESTS TO MARRY - 2 FOR PRICE OF ONE!</p>		
<p>TWO TIER SYSTEM - RC PRIEST + THE MARRIED EX ANGLICAN PRIESTS ? WOMEN PRIESTS CLERGY INHERENT RULES - WHICH WE ARE STICKING TO.</p>		
<p>✓ CAN THE LAY PEOPLE DO MORE SO THAT THE PRIESTS CAN DO THE SACRAMENTAL. ✓ VARY TIMES OF DAILY MASS TO ENABLE ACCESS TO WIDER GENERATIONS</p>		
<p>CHURCH MORE FLEXIBLE - OPEN TO CHANGE.</p>		
<p> </p>		



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We need to hear the voices of our young people in the Church.

We should be doing ~~is~~ more in response to the Synodal processes and consequences. Learning from ~~what was said~~ the outcomes. ~~Reach~~ ~~look~~ outwards towards ~~the more vulnerable~~ ^{in our} communities.

Important that we respond to Pope Francis' request that we approach new people who come to Mass with young children.

Learn from other countries how they attract young people back to Mass.
Identify a Mass regularly for young families

? Need to allow priests to marry so we can ensure we have the sacraments. if there are less vocations to the priesthood.

Succession planning as older volunteers & parishes retire / become frail



11 Feb 2024

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Holy Cross 4 ←
 Holy Trinity 3
 Sacred Heart 0
 St Nicholas 1

} 8 people in discussion group.

Concerns

- Lack of Priests
- Serving New Large Housing Estates.
- Loss of young people
- Increasing personal isolation (Screen Time + Virtual World)
- Loss of accessibility to a P.P. whom you know + knows you.
- Effects on Catholic Schools + Education.

Priorities

- Youth
- Accessibility to Mass.

Hopes

- Career Advisers.
- Make a life as a Priest more attractive in material/financial terms.

Loss of P.P.s

I/We were brought up in a family, nurtured and shaped as a person + as a Christian

Q How many parishes can you join as ONE before you lose so much that a family and family we enjoy + cherish.

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"Fears"

- * - less frequent masses / People busy at work
- ~~elderly population~~ → Difficult to travel to other Churches if local one were to close
- A choice: stay traditional and count down the time or create changes to draw younger people in
- Loss of identity - Loss of service to prisons/sacraments

- Young people are now less engaged to go by us here, there is a disconnect school? In Church?

"Hopes"

- Pulling together of people right now to make a stronger community
- More collaborative approach, between priests and laity's between the parishes
- Lay people will be empowered

↓
We shy away from giving young people an understad of reading & study



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Holy Trinity all of us in group.

We should have more dialogue with other Churches. Walk of witness + Walk of students from Bishop Walsh + Faith

people from URC + Anglican. Catholic Church didn't host. Walk for Ukraine - some Catholics took part; not many. Advise our Trinity Singers

Need to encourage more Ecumenical
Ecumenical interaction



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From a School/Youth perspective - engaging.
Schools are inspected for quality of Mission - why create Parishes/Priests?

What is the vision?

- can we ensure this is not purely reactive and
~~the~~ administrative.

Why are we so short of vocations for Birmingham.
Why reject so many. - why Academic.

20~~14~~ - 70 retired. 30 to retire.

Can Deacons do more?

What are vocations doing - at each level?

The clergy must start actively listening, including
- Parish Councils !!
- What does - 'Inform vs' mean - who is vs?

Relinquish the 'power'.

Stop using Canon Law as an excuse.

How does retiring priests affect what church does
what - open/close - ~~max~~
churches?

We can target the youth but we must target their
Parents - where are they? Can they talk confidently about faith.

Where is the plan for better clergy pastoral care?

Electronic Payments/Collections.

No communication - too much 'optionality'



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SH 4 HT 0 HC 3 SN 5,

- ACCESS TO MASSES.

AGE. SH. DEMOGRAPHIC - NO SCHOOL, NOT
LC. SCHOOL.

MASSES.	SH	HC	SN	HT
SUNDAY	1	3	3.	?

CONNECTION WITH YOUNGER FAMILIES.

-
ALTAR SERVERS. -

SCHOOL NOT INVOLVED

COVID - CONGREGATION NOT RECOVERED.

CHURCH GROUPS - SUP. FSA, SCOTS GUIDES.

-
EXPERIENCE FROM OTHER AREA'S. ALREADY
GROWING THROUGH THIS PROCESS.



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Our group is made up of the following number from HC&StF...!...; HT...5...; SH.2...; StN...!...

Children 'young people' ^{we they} being valued in the Church.

They need to more involved

Some services are being homilies too long

Put off by abuse in the church.

They still have a relationship with God
but necessary in to Mass on a
regular basis

They are very Christian in their lives

but don't attend regularly.

How do we bring them back?
Why are they not coming?

Married priest / women priests

Women deacons.

Need more women involved

Parish priests need to involve

devotion + leadership

We are a missionary country

we feel contentment we feel as if we

belong - very strong community

but we need to be a much more

inclusive community

Stewards of
this world

What has happened over at the

comes from the Synodical

we need action!

Pathway

Can we use
some of the
findings to
move



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Concerns

The choice of mass times and the services available - concern

Age of congregation - getting older

Money to fund the upkeep and maintenance

Acceleration of online Masses is

a concern - As masses reduce and potential, parish closures reduces the parish community and opportunity to receive communion.

How do we get younger people engaged in the parish?

Behind the scenes work to manage the parish to lay people who need to be allowed and engaged with to use the skills of the parish



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Our group is made up of the following number from HC&StE⁵; HT...1...; SH...3...; StN...1...

CONCERNS + FEARS:

- * CLERGY NUMBER + FOR THE FUTURE
- * CLOSURE OF CHURCHES - ASSURANCES
- / REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MASSES

- * LOSS OF PARISH IDENTITY
- / PARISHIONER → PRIEST RELATIONSHIP
- / AGE OF PARISHIONERS - LACK OF YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES
- / REACHING OUT TO YOUNGER CATHOLICS
- / EFFECT ON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS + INTERACTION w/ PRIESTS.

HOPES

- / MAINTAIN PARISH IDENTITY
- / NO LOSS OF CONNECTION TO OUR PRIESTS
- / THAT NO CHURCH CLOSES

- / DEVELOPMENT OF FELLOWSHIP - STRONGER TOGETHER
- / CENTRALISE PENITENTIAL SERVICES
 - BAPTISM / SACRAMENTAL PREP (CONSIDERATIONS)
 - CATECHESIS - CHILDREN
 - ADULTS (WORK TOGETHER)
- / INCREASE ROLE FOR THE LAITY:

- ↳ PRIESTS TO DELEGATE SOME ROLES
- ↳ PERHAPS PAID ADMIN SUPPORT
 - phone calls, bulletin
 - hall hiring
 - finance etc
- ↳ PARISH COUNCIL; MANAGEMENT TEAM??
- ↳ VISITING THE SICK; MINISTERING SACRAMENTS
- ↳ SKILLS / KNOWLEDGE EG MANUAL WORK / GARDENING ETC
- / DEVELOPMENT + SHARING OF DIFFERENT PARISH'S STRENGTHS

CENTRAL OFFICE
?
SINANE

- / OUTREACH INTO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

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① REGULAR MASS TIMES - CANNOT BE SUSTAINED.

② - YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES - HOW DO WE ENGAGE AND ENCOURAGE TO BE PART OF THE CHURCH.
- YOUNG PEOPLE CANNOT SEE HOW THE CHURCH APPLIES TO THEM.
- YOUNG PEOPLE (YOUTH) TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE CLUSTER.

③ RECO PEOPLE'S SAKTUALITY.

④ ~~THE~~ THE FUTURE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS.

⑤ THE USE OF THE LITURGY - COMMONION SERVICES, PUNIONS, WEAPINGS.



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Concerns (1) lack of priests to maintain sacraments
How do we maintain sacraments such as: marriage, baptisms, anointing of sick, last rights, funeral masses

How do they manage in areas where there is already a lack of priests? - we need to learn their lessons

(2) How do we engage younger parishioners to assist parish (under 60) / Value their contribution they make

(3) Mass said by a priest at least once a week (preferably Sunday) in each parish

(4) Do we need to think of ourselves as wider geographical area what does that require?

(5) How do those with limited ability to travel get Mass

(6) Parish priests need to let go now of certain non priest critical responsibilities - C