



come + see  
go + make

WORKSHEET ACTIVITIES



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
WOLLONGONG

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The worksheet activities provided in this booklet aim to assist you in reflecting on and discussing your response to *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes (CSGM)*.

Divided into two sections – "Pray, reflect, & discuss" and "The parish I see" – this booklet will help you and your community to:

- process and respond to what you are hearing in Bishop Brian's vision for parishes (p3-17).
- thoughtfully discern your experience of parish life as compared to the image presented in the "In the parish I see..." word picture (p19-41).

This process is best undertaken as a parish community in a large group over a number of sessions (50+ people). Alternatively, it is possible to facilitate a small group reflection and discussion (8-12 people). Instructions on both these models have been provided to your pastor and parish pastoral council/leadership team.

**At the beginning of each section, there are instructions for individual reflection that you might like to use in lieu of a small or large group occurring in your community.**

## CORRECTIONS

Please note, at the time of printing, there were two errors in *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes* document.

- Page 12 – worksheet activity 8 and 9 are incorrectly labelled as compared to the content - they should be "8. A vision for the future" and "9. The Diocese of Wollongong". The online version of the vision document has been updated to reflect the correct labels.
- Page 17 – there are questions associated with "The power of the Spirit" section but this was not indicated in the vision document. The associated activity "13D. The power of the Spirit"

The digital version of this document has been corrected and is available at [dow.sh/CSGMresources](https://dow.sh/CSGMresources). *We apologise for any confusion caused. (28 November, 2023)*






# come + see go make

## PRAY, REFLECT, & DISCUSS

### OVERVIEW

This collection of reflection questions is designed to enable you to prayerfully move through *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes* in a slow, methodical way.

You are encouraged to pause reading where directed (indicated by this icon – ) , and reflect on what you have read – What is it saying to you? How do you feel about it? What questions come to mind? Then, turning to the corresponding activity in this workbook, you are encouraged to engage with the questions provided and discuss them with your small group. There is limited space to write your own personal reflections. You might like to write further reflections on additional pages.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS

1. Begin your reading by using the *Prayer Resource for Reflection & Discernment* (p4). If you are reading the vision document over several sessions, be sure to always commence with prayer.
2. Read a section of the CSGM vision document slowly and deliberately, pausing at the instruction to complete a worksheet activity. (*OPTIONAL – Read additional supporting material in “Go Deeper” where indicated*)
3. **Pause in silence (3-5 minutes) to reflect on what you have read.**
4. Complete the accompanying worksheet activity.
5. Bring your time of reflection and discernment to a close by using the Concluding Prayer in the *Prayer Resource for Reflection & Discernment*.
6. Offer your reflections and discernment to your parish leadership - your pastor and PPC/leadership Team. Your prayerful responses will aid in their discernment.

## Activity 1 - Prayer resource for reflection & discernment

### INSTRUCTIONS

**Use this prayer resource to offer to God this time of reading, reflecting, and discussing.** If praying in a small or large group, consider asking different members of the community to lead each prayer or reading on behalf of the community. Include a song of praise and/or, if available, your own parish community's prayer.

### PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

Read these passages of Scripture to remind ourselves why we pray.

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 NRSVCE)*

**We pray because this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us.**

*“The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Psalm 145:18)*

**We pray because we wish to draw close to God and have him draw close to us.**

*“And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.” (1 John 5:14–15 NRSVCE)*

**We pray because if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.**

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6–7 NRSVCE)*

**We pray so that the peace of God guards our hearts and minds.**

### PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God our loving Father, who desires that all people be saved and come to a knowledge of the Truth, you have brought us together in this parish community, to continue the work of your Son in proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you spared nothing in your obedience to the Father's will and the giving of your life for our salvation. Help us, by the power of your resurrection, to be bearers of your love to our community of believers and to all whom you would have us share your saving love. **Amen.**

Holy Spirit, our comforter and advocate, please come and fill us afresh with your presence and all your good gifts. Empower and protect us as we continue this journey of renewal and evangelisation. Enlighten our minds and hearts so that we might know whom we are called to be as a community, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

We ask this of you our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Mother Mary, first disciple and mother of us all, please intercede for us as we pray:  
**Hail Mary...**

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord God, as we come to the end of this time of prayer, reflection and discernment, we entrust to you all that we have accomplished today, knowing that your love brings to completion the humble offering of our minds and hearts.

We ask this of you our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Activity 2 - Bearers of Christ's Love

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Before reading this section, what did you understand being a "Bearer of Christ's Love" to mean?
3. Has your understanding changed? If so, how?
4. What does it mean to you to "see through his eyes, love with his heart, and be driven by his mission?"
5. In what ways do we fulfil this identity as "Bearers of Christ's Love" in our community? In what ways could we do this better?

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## Activity 3 - Our mission

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. In your own words, what is the mission of Jesus?
3. What do you think of the idea that our mission is "to evangelise all people"?
4. In terms of time, talent (where people serve in the community), and treasure (what we spend our money as a parish community), what truly is your parish's primary focus at the moment?

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## Activity 4A–The new evangelisation

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. What do you understand the “Gospel” to be? Sum it up in your own words.
3. What does it mean to “proclaim the Gospel”?
4. What makes a proclamation of the Gospel “persuasive”?
5. How do you feel about the call to “preach” the Gospel with words?

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## Activity 4B–The new evangelisation

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Pope Francis beckons us to a “renewed personal encounter with Jesus”. What does this mean?
3. What is a personal relationship with Jesus?
4. This “encounter is not with an idea, a mission, an obligation or duty, or a way of life, but with a real person, the person of Jesus”. Do you feel you have “encountered” the person of Jesus? What does this look like in your life?
5. Have you ever prayed a prayer like one offered by Pope Francis?  
(If you would like to, you can pray this prayer now)

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## Activity 5–The Spirit is Moving

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. How might “formation for mission” differ from other learning?
3. In order to be better formed for mission, what are some mission topics or skills that you would be interested in exploring?
4. What is your understanding of synodality?
5. Bishop Brian has described synodality as the “whole church working together for the sake of the mission of Jesus”. What are some ways ministries, parishes or regions might work together?

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## Activity 6A - Our Current Situation (I)

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. The statistics of baptised Catholics who participate in our communities are confronting. What is your response to this information?
3. There are many reasons to explain why attendance at Mass may have declined. What might be the cause/s behind people walking away?
4. What do you think of the idea that we are called to share the Gospel with everyone within our diocesan boundary? How does it make you feel?
5. What are the barriers to growth in your parish? How might we overcome them as a community?

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## Activity 6B - Our Current Situation (II)

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Bishop Brian reminds us that we are living in a “post-Christian world”. What are some of the challenges and opportunities of this reality?
3. In what ways does our faith address the hopelessness we see in the world today? What do we have to offer the world?
4. What has been the effect of the Gospel in your life?
5. Read Go Deeper | 9: The Kerygma. In light of this “Good News”, what do you think the world most misunderstands about the Catholic Faith?

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## Activity 6C - Our Current Situation (III)

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. How do you feel about the idea that the mission of the Church must be the focus of all parishioners?
3. Have you experienced an unexpected change in parish life? What happened and how did you respond? Reflecting now, how might you have responded better?
4. How do we allow “what breaks the heart of Jesus...to break our hearts too”?

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## Activity 7A - A Path Forward (I)

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Bishop Brian identifies four necessary qualities of a vision: big, real, missional, and Christ-centred. Thinking of a particular ministry or work in your parish, do you have a sense of a “vision” for that ministry and does it have those four necessary qualities?
3. How might a “conversion” be different to a plan?
4. Have you ever experienced activities, ministries or groups seemingly competing in your community? What happened?
5. What do you see as the vision of your parish?

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## Activity 7B - A Path Forward (II)

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. How do you feel about the call to say “no” to some good activities, ministries, and groups – for a time – in order to “make the main thing, the main thing”?
3. Do you consider it to be your responsibility to “make disciples”? Why/why not?
4. What does it mean to you to be a “missionary disciple”?

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## Activity 8 - The Diocese of Wollongong

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. What is your response to the vision of the Church, as articulated by Bishop Brian?
3. How could parishes, schools, welfare, and religious communities become more united?
4. How might we make Jesus the centre of all we do?

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## Activity 9 - A Vision of the Future

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. What particular needs or problems in the life of your parish produce passion in you?
3. As a Church, what are we called to be for the world?
4. Bishop Brian describes his vision not as a new “destination” but a new “remembering”. What does this mean to you?
5. To what aspect of parish life do you think we need to be the most courageous to address?

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## Activity 10 - In the Parish I see

***Please note:** For the full exploration of Bishop Brian's word picture, please see "The Parish I see" section of this workbook. This is a set of separate reflection, discernment and discussion activities.*

### **Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Which part of the word picture inspired you most? Why?
3. Which part of the word picture caused worry, concern, or disagreement? Why?
4. Is there something you see differently? If so, describe it.
5. Why do you think Bishop Brian chose to include this word picture?

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## Activity 11A - Come and See

### **Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. What advantages or disadvantages are there in adopting a program or plan?
3. How is Jesus the cornerstone of your community?
4. What does it mean to let the Lord build the house so that we don't labour in vain?
5. What stood out to you from the Gospel reading?

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## Activity 11B - Come and See

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. What does “the unconditional love of God” mean to you?
3. What do you see as being the “brokenness” in the world today?
4. What is discipleship to you?
5. What does it mean to you to “Come and see”?

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## Activity 11C - Come and See

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Have you heard of or attended an *Alpha* course? What was your experience?
3. What has been your experience of communal prayer?
4. Have you ever been part of a small faith-sharing group? What was your experience?
5. What other ways might we facilitate intentional encounter with Jesus?

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## Activity 12A - Go and Make

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. In your life outside the parish community - at home, work, or school - In what ways have you experienced the impulse to share your “encounter with Jesus” with others?
3. What does it mean to you to “Go and make”?

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## Activity 12B - Go and Make

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Why might the first impulse of a missionary be “to move”?
3. What thoughts or feelings come to mind when you ask yourself, “Am I yet the disciple I am called to be?”
4. Bishop Brian tells us that we walk the path of discipleship through formation, catechesis, and pursuing virtue and holiness. Which of these do you find easier or more difficult in your life?
5. What does it mean to you to “support the leadership of the parish priest or administrator in his role as pastor of the community”?

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## Activity 12C - Go and Make

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Thinking about “formation for mission”, what topics or practical workshops do you think would be most helpful for you?
3. What areas of formation or catechesis would you find most interesting?
4. Do you see yourself as a leader? Why or why not?
5. How could saying “no” to things we’ve always done, help us to say “yes” to the few things that are “at the heart of the mission of the Church”?

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## Activity 13A - Principles and Foundations

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. How might adopting a principled approach to renewal be freeing rather than binding us up?

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*Please note: Due to the additional reading required, Activities 13B and 13C will need more time to complete.*

## Activity 13B - Principles and Foundations

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Have you read any books or seen any videos on the topic of parish renewal? What were they and what was your experience of them?
3. **Read “1. The principles” from the “Principles and Foundations” document.** Discuss.
4. Which principle do you find the most appealing or exciting? Why?
5. Which principle causes you concern or apprehension? Why?

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## Activity 13C - Principles and Foundations

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Bishop Brian describes two scenarios of how the foundations interact with each other. Have you experienced either of these scenarios?
3. **Read “2. The Foundations” from the “Principles and Foundations” document.** Discuss.
4. Which foundation do you find the most appealing or exciting? Why?
5. Which foundation causes you concern or apprehension? Why?

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## Activity 13D - The power of the Spirit

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. How do you feel about the truth that the “Spirit of the risen Christ dwells in you”? What does this mean to you?
3. Do you believe the Holy Spirit guides your steps? What does this look like in your life?
4. How can we “call on the Spirit daily and surrender to the will of God”?

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## Activity 14A - Overwhelmed by hope

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. Bishop Brian describes experiencing feelings of disappointment and frustration during his journey. How are you feeling?
3. Reflecting on your experience of parish life:
  - a. For what are you grateful and why?
  - b. For whom are you grateful and why?
4. Do you feel “seen” in your parish community?

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## Activity 14B - Overwhelmed by hope

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What stood out to you from this section?
2. What do you think stops us from trusting in Jesus?
3. If the Gospel of Jesus Christ matters before all else, what might we do differently in our parishes?
4. How can we “choose the good portion” as Mary did?
5. Thinking back over the whole vision provided by Bishop Brian, what is one thing that will endure in your mind and heart?

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## Activity 15 - Where to from here?

**Pause and reflect, then discuss/write your response:**

1. What was your most and least favourite part of the vision? Why?
2. How would you summarise or describe the vision to someone who hasn't encountered it?
3. What sort of encounter-based or formation experiences would you be interested in attending?
4. Complete this sentence: In my parish, I believe we most need help with...

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THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING  
"PRAY, REFLECT, & DISCUSS"

# come + see go make

## THE PARISH I SEE

### OVERVIEW

It can be difficult to imagine how a renewed parish might look. We can often get glimpses of how individual ministries or particular experiences of parishioners could improve but not whole pictures. We can also identify aspects of other communities that we value or even have memories of our own experiences that resonate. These are all undoubtedly helpful. They speak to the passion that stirs within us and give us energy when we move towards them. For this reason, Bishop Brian has given us a word picture of a renewed parish, "In the parish I see". This is an image of what could be if we were to become a *Come & See, Go & Make* people who prioritise encounter, discipleship, and evangelisation.

Responding to the Bishop's word picture of a renewed parish, please call to mind your current experience of parish life. This is a chance to celebrate all that is well and to assess where there is room for growth and renewal. You are encouraged to prayerfully reflect and honestly respond to the questions below. In so doing and by God's grace, you will help your pastor\*, the pastoral council and/or leadership team, and the whole community to take positive action to bring about the transformation needed.

The following reflection activities are designed to help break open this word picture and begin to frame it within the context of your parish community. Each section represents an aspect of the word picture, phrase by phrase.

Importantly, you will see that there are two types of questions contained in this collection of activities:



#### **Individual reflection**

Regardless of whether you are engaging with these activities on your own or within a group, these reflection questions should be completed individually.



#### **Group discussion/reflection**

These reflection questions are designed to generate discussion amongst a small group. If you are completing the worksheet activities as an individual, you would complete these activities as you would the individual reflection questions.

\*given that some parishes have appointed parish priests, assistant priests, administrators, and/or resident priests, this document will use the generic term "pastor" to refer to the priest who is assigned the leadership of the parish community.

***Please note: This is a longer activity and will require more time to complete. Consider allowing multiple sessions to prayerfully and thoughtfully move through this process.***



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS

1. Begin your reading by using the *Prayer Resource for Reflection & Discernment* (p4). If you are reading the vision document over several sessions, be sure to always commence with prayer.
2. Read the entire "In the parish I see..." word picture (p20)
3. **Pause in silence (3-5 minutes) to reflect on what you have read** and then complete the accompanying worksheet activity (p21)
4. Continue to move through the activities, taking time to reflect on each statement and prayerfully and honestly responding to the questions asked of you.
5. Bring your time of reflection and discernment to a close by using the Concluding Prayer in the Prayer Resource for Reflection & Discernment.
6. Offer your reflections and discernment to your parish leadership - your pastor and PPC/leadership Team. Your prayerful responses will aid in their discernment.



## In the parish I see ...

I see life breaking forth<sup>1</sup>... I see an active parish, marked by the joy of the Gospel<sup>2</sup>...

I see inter-generational families together, worshipping and praying<sup>3</sup>...

I see vibrant eucharistic celebrations where God is worshipped with reverence and awe, and people are inspired<sup>4</sup>. There, I see pastors speaking the truth in love to all who will listen<sup>5</sup>...

I see a parish where there is a culture of invitation and welcome<sup>6</sup>...

I see disciples sent forth to proclaim a crucified and risen Christ<sup>7</sup>...

I see a parish where the sick, hungry, hurting, and lost are given preference<sup>8</sup>...

I see a parish so deeply connected to those hurting in the community that their pain is our pain<sup>9</sup>...

I see a parish that is an epicentre of hope for all who draw near to it,  
a lighthouse amidst the storms of life<sup>10</sup>...

I see the community supporting one another in small faith-sharing groups<sup>11</sup>...

I see a place where there is no in-crowd or out-crowd, but rather, there are the people of God, serving one another<sup>12</sup>, and using the gifts that God has given them for the upbuilding of the community<sup>13</sup>...

I see a parish where saints are made<sup>14</sup>...

I see a parish where all people can hear the voice of God calling them,  
and they actively respond to their baptismal call, their vocation<sup>15</sup>—  
to the ordained life, consecrated religious, married, or single life ...

Yes, in the parish I see, the clergy are not over-burdened,  
because they have good men and women around them,  
supporting them in their leadership, and exercising appropriate leadership themselves<sup>16</sup> ...

The person of Jesus and his invitation to “come and see” and then to “go and make” is at the heart of the parish I see, and in that parish, good things grow and our buildings can scarcely contain us.  
That’s the parish I see!

1 cf. John 10:10b

2 *Evangelii Gaudium* 1

3 cf. Exodus 10:9

4 *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 7, 8, 10

5 Cf. Ephesians 4:15

6 *Evangelii Gaudium* 114

7 cf. 1 Corinthians 2:1–5

8 cf. Matthew 25:40

9 cf. Galatians 6:2, *Evangelii Gaudium* 198

10 cf. Matthew 5:14–16

11 cf. Hebrews 10:24–25

12 cf. 1 Peter 4:10

16 cf. 1 Corinthians 14:12

15 Francis. (2023). *On Confidence in the Merciful Love of God* 17. Retrieved from <https://dow.sh/3Qtjnh>

14 "A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people."—Pope Francis, January 16, 2014

13 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. (1997). *On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the* 53Q28



## Considering the whole “In the Parish I see..” word picture

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (JEREMIAH 29:11)*



1. What phrase from the word picture most inspired, encouraged, or energised you? Why?

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2. What phrase from the word picture raised concerns or confusion for you? Why?

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3. If anything were possible and God’s vision came to be, what would your parish look like in 5 years? (In your reflection, consider physical realities such as the parish church and meeting rooms, activities and ministries, and the culture and mood of the community).

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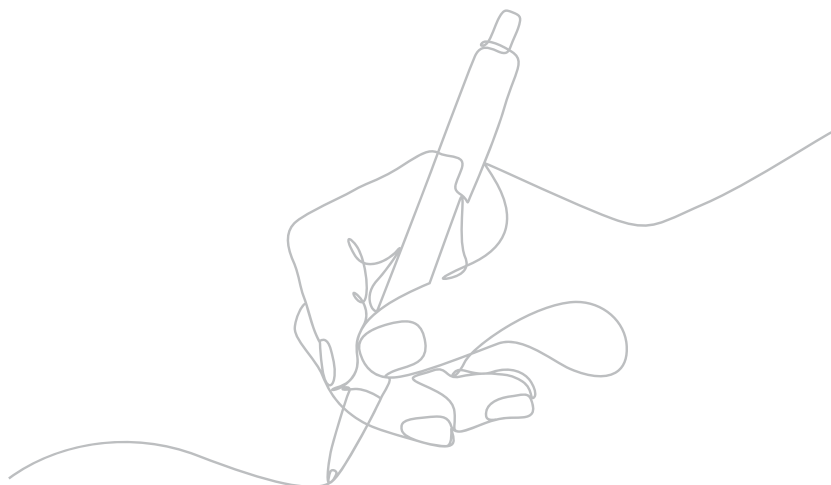
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## “I see life breaking forth...I see an active parish, marked by the joy of the Gospel...”

*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly* (JOHN 10:10B)

*“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew”* (EVANGELII GAUDIUM, 1)



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

### I would describe my parish community as being:

a. a place where people live their lives to the fullest	1	2	3	4	5
b. an exciting community	1	2	3	4	5
c. full of opportunities and possibilities for serving God and the community	1	2	3	4	5
d. alive with activity	1	2	3	4	5
e. marked by the joy of the Gospel	1	2	3	4	5
f. a place where the Gospel of Jesus is celebrated	1	2	3	4	5
g. a positive place to live out my Catholic Faith	1	2	3	4	5



1. Bishop Brian envisions a parish community marked by the joy of the Gospel. There are many ways to describe our experience of community life (e.g. joyful, sorrowful, heartbreaking, energising, depressing, hopeful, sombre). What word do you think a visitor to your parish would use to describe your community?

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2. How would you describe the culture of your community?

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3. Considering the Sunday Eucharistic celebration, what are 3 concrete steps we could take to improve a visitor’s experience of both the Mass and our community?

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## “I see inter-generational families together, worshipping and praying”

*We will go with our young and our old; we will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, because we have the Lord's festival to celebrate. (EXODUS 10:9)*



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

### In my parish community:

a. it is commonplace to see grandparents, parents and their children together at Eucharistic celebrations and other parish events	1	2	3	4	5
b. there are many opportunities for families to connect with each other and the community	1	2	3	4	5
c. parents are encouraged to bring their children to Mass	1	2	3	4	5
d. families are actively encouraged to be involved in community life and activities	1	2	3	4	5
e. we ensure there are activities, such as Children's Liturgy, for families	1	2	3	4	5
f. families have an opportunity to visit the church outside of Mass to pray	1	2	3	4	5



1. In your parish, how does a new family become known and connected to the community?

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2. What are some ways that we could better support families to be actively involved in parish life?

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**“I see vibrant Eucharistic celebrations where God is worshipped with reverence and awe, and people are inspired.”**



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

**My parish’s Sunday Mass:**

a. is a prayerful experience	1	2	3	4	5
b. is celebrated with reverence	1	2	3	4	5
c. has quality, appropriate music that is uplifting	1	2	3	4	5
d. utilises the gifts of the community well (in acolytes, lectors, servers and other ways)	1	2	3	4	5
e. inspires me in my Catholic Faith	1	2	3	4	5
f. is the highlight of my week	1	2	3	4	5
g. is something I look forward to	1	2	3	4	5
h. deepens my relationship with God	1	2	3	4	5
i. connects me more closely to my community	1	2	3	4	5
j. is where I am known and loved	1	2	3	4	5
k. is an inviting experience	1	2	3	4	5



1. What do you love about the way your parish community celebrates the Sunday Mass?

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2. We are called to be faithful to the Mass as given to us by Christ and his Church. Given that, what steps could we take to have an even greater experience of Mass?

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**“There I see pastors speaking the truth in love to all who will listen.”**

*But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. (EPHESIANS 4:15)*



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

**In general, the homilies at Mass are:**

a. memorable	1	2	3	4	5
b. relevant to me, my family, and our community	1	2	3	4	5
c. the “truth spoken in love”	1	2	3	4	5
d. an appropriate length of time	1	2	3	4	5
e. well-prepared	1	2	3	4	5
f. understandable (in their content)	1	2	3	4	5
g. encouraging	1	2	3	4	5
h. inspiring	1	2	3	4	5
i. challenging	1	2	3	4	5
j. communicated with appropriate passion (energetic, solemn, serious etc)	1	2	3	4	5
k. informative/instructive	1	2	3	4	5

What is most important to you in a homily? Please rank the following statements about homilies in order of most important to least important, by placing a number in the box provided, (1–most important, through to 11–least important )

Homilies should be:

_____	memorable	_____	encouraging
_____	relevant to me, my family, and our community	_____	inspiring
_____	the truth spoken in love	_____	challenging
_____	an appropriate length of time	_____	communicated with appropriate passion (energetic, solemn, serious)
_____	well-prepared	_____	Informative/instructive
_____	understandable (in their content)		



1. Can you remember a time that a homily in your parish moved, inspired or challenged you? What was it about that homily that spoke to you?

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2. What is the appropriate length of a homily in Mass? Does your answer change based on circumstances (e.g. feasts, Sunday or weekday, weddings or funerals)?

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3. Do you find that you implement or take action based on homilies that you listen to in your parish?

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4. What is the difference between “speaking the truth” and “speaking the truth in love”?

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**“I see a parish where there is a culture of invitation and welcome”**

*The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel* (EVANGELII GAUDIUM, 114)



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

**I would describe the culture of our community as being:**

a. invitational	1	2	3	4	5
b. welcoming	1	2	3	4	5
c. friendly	1	2	3	4	5
d. positive	1	2	3	4	5
e. open	1	2	3	4	5
f. warm	1	2	3	4	5
g. generous	1	2	3	4	5
h. forgiving	1	2	3	4	5



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

**In my parish community:**

a. we are actively encouraged to invite others to be involved in our community life	1	2	3	4	5
b. we see invitation as a process rather than a one-off action	1	2	3	4	5
c. we are given resources, training and support to assist us in inviting others	1	2	3	4	5
d. we provide opportunities for people to explore our Catholic Faith	1	2	3	4	5
e. hospitality is an important ministry	1	2	3	4	5
f. it is everyone’s responsibility to be welcoming	1	2	3	4	5
g. we make time during our liturgies and other events to welcome visitors	1	2	3	4	5
h. we make time to explain our beliefs and practices	1	2	3	4	5
i. we have a process for welcoming visitors, both Catholic and others	1	2	3	4	5
j. welcome is more than simply handing out a bulletin	1	2	3	4	5
k. I feel welcomed	1	2	3	4	5



1. Have you ever invited someone (a friend, family member, colleague, or stranger) to attend a parish liturgy or event? What was their experience?

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2. Have you ever visited another parish Mass or event to see what it was like? What was your experience?

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3. What steps could we take as a community to be a more invitational and welcoming parish?

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4. What barriers do you see to inviting others to explore our faith?

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5. Do you feel comfortable inviting someone to your parish? Why or why not?

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### **“I see disciples sent forth to proclaim a crucified and risen Christ”**

*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. (1 CORINTHIANS 2:1–5)*



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

#### **In my parish community:**

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. we see ourselves as disciples   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. we see it as the responsibility of everyone in the community to play their role in sharing the Gospel | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. our pastor speaks often about the Gospel and the call to share it with others                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Jesus’ death and resurrection feature highly in our community   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. we feel equipped for this mission   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



1. What does it mean to you to “proclaim a crucified and risen Christ”?

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2. What obstacles do you believe there are to a culture of mission?

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3. Do you feel comfortable talking with your friends or family about your relationship with God? Why or why not?

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4. In what ways could the parish engage with the wider community to share the Gospel?

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5. What kind of topics would you like to see explored in a “formation for mission”?

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**“I see a parish where the sick, hungry, hurting, and lost are given preference”**

*And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ (MATTHEW 25:40)*



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

**In my parish community:**

a. we prioritise caring for those who need us the most	1	2	3	4	5
b. we believe it is important to care for the vulnerable in our community	1	2	3	4	5
c. we ensure that the sick or housebound have opportunities for pastoral care and connection with community members	1	2	3	4	5

d. we always take into consideration the needs of those with disabilities - physical and/or mental - when planning liturgies and events	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
e. it is clear how a family or individual who is struggling to “make ends meet” might gain the support of the community	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
f. we regularly reach out to the broader community to serve the needs of the marginalised	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
g. we have opportunities for healing such as healing masses, retreats, prayer and reflection regularly	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
h. if a non-practising Catholic or non-Catholic person approaches the community, there is a clear process for how to welcome and include them	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
i. we organise events specifically for non-practising Catholics and non-Catholics	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
j. non-practicing Catholics and non-Catholic people are regularly present at parish liturgies and events	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>



1. How does a parishioner in your community organise pastoral care for themselves or a loved one?

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2. How does a parishioner in your community organise to meet with or request a visit from your pastor?

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3. What are some practical ways that we could support those who are:

a. Sick or housebound?

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b. hungry or homeless?

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c. hurting mentally or spiritually?

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d. Struggling with addiction?

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e. Non-practising Catholics or non-Catholics?

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**“I see a parish so deeply connected to those hurting in the community that their pain is our pain”**

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.* (GALATIANS 6:2)

*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.* (1 CORINTHIANS 12:26)



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

**In my parish community:**

a. we care for one another	1	2	3	4	5
b. we are like a family and know each other well	1	2	3	4	5
c. people regularly connect outside the Sunday Eucharist	1	2	3	4	5
d. we notice when someone is not present and we follow them up	1	2	3	4	5
e. we are aware when a parishioner is struggling and seek to support them	1	2	3	4	5



1. St Paul tells us that *“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it”* (1 Cor 12:26).  
What does this mean?

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2. How do you feel about the idea of “their pain” being “our pain”?

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3. What are the obstacles to supporting one another?

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4. How could we better support one another in our parish?

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5. Have you ever felt compelled to support someone in the parish  
(e.g. with money, food, or other material goods)? What happened?

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## “I see a parish that is an epicentre of hope for all who draw near to it, a lighthouse amidst the storms of life”

*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.* (MATTHEW 5:14-16)



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

### Our parish is:

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. an epicentre of hope                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. a lighthouse amidst the storms of life     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. a place where people feel safe and at home | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

### In my parish community:

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. I come away filled with hope  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. I have clear direction for my life  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. even when I have personal difficulties, there is always a feeling that I am not alone | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



1. What does it mean to you for the parish to be an “epicentre of hope”?

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2. In what ways is your parish a “lighthouse amidst the storms of life”?

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3. What are some of the storms of life that the wider community of your parish faces?

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## “I see the community supporting one another in small faith-sharing groups”

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* (HEBREWS 10:24–25)



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

### Small faith-sharing groups:

a. are a necessary part of parish life	1	2	3	4	5
b. should include formation or teaching	1	2	3	4	5
c. are a great place to connect with others in the parish community	1	2	3	4	5
d. help to make a parish a “community of communities”	1	2	3	4	5
e. are a waste of time	1	2	3	4	5
f. should occur regularly	1	2	3	4	5
g. are something I would be interested in joining or helping to form	1	2	3	4	5



1. Discussing our faith journey with one another is not generally a part of our Catholic culture. Why do you think this might be?

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2. What is your understanding of what a small faith-sharing group is?

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3. Many parish communities have social activities and events (parish dinners, picnics or morning teas). How might small faith-sharing groups differ from a social gathering (in focus structure)?

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4. What might the benefits of a small faith-sharing group be? How might it help us support one another?

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5. What could be some obstacles to establishing small faith-sharing groups in your parish community?

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6. Would you be interested in joining a small faith-sharing group in your parish community?

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**“I see a place where there is no in-crowd or out-crowd but rather there are the people of God, serving one another and using the gifts that God has given them for the upbuilding of the community”**

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* (1 PETER 4:10)

*So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church.* (1 CORINTHIANS 14:12)



Reflect on the following statements (1—strongly disagree, 3—not sure, 5—strongly agree)

**I feel:**

a. I have something to contribute to the life of the community	1	2	3	4	5
b. encouraged to use my gifts and talents	1	2	3	4	5
c. there is a place for me to use my specific gifts and talents	1	2	3	4	5
d. it is a responsibility to be a good steward of what God has given me in time, talent, and treasure	1	2	3	4	5
e. I am serving a larger purpose or mission regardless of how small a task may seem	1	2	3	4	5
f. there are different seasons of service depending on life circumstances	1	2	3	4	5

**In my parish:**

a. we explore the different gifts and talents that contribute to the community	1	2	3	4	5
b. we make time to learn and grow in our gifts and talents	1	2	3	4	5
c. people serve based on their strengths rather than on a particular need	1	2	3	4	5
d. we celebrate the contributions of members of the community	1	2	3	4	5
e. there are many different ways to serve	1	2	3	4	5
f. it is clear what areas of service need greater support from members of the community	1	2	3	4	5
g. everyone shares the responsibility for the community equally	1	2	3	4	5

**I would:**

a. like to learn more about gifts-based ministry	1	2	3	4	5
b. attend formation to help me discover my gifts and talents	1	2	3	4	5
c. like to receive coaching in growing in my gifts and talents	1	2	3	4	5



1. List the areas of service in your community that you can recall

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2. What areas of service do you believe should be included in the life of the community but are not currently?

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3. Is there an “in-crowd” in your community? How does that affect your experience of parish life? What can we do to break down the in-crowd and out-crowd mentality?

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## “I see a parish where saints are made”

*“I always feel, however, the same bold confidence of becoming a great saint, because I don’t count on my merits, since I have none, but I trust in him who is Virtue and Holiness. God alone, content with my weak efforts, will raise me to himself and make me a saint, clothing me in his infinite merits.”* (ST THERESE OF LISIEUX, STORY OF A SOUL, P72)



### Complete these sentences:

- a. A saint is... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. To become a saint, I must... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Personal holiness is... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. God’s grace is... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. I am aware of the practical example of the saints  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. I am inspired by the lives of the saints to deepen my relationship with God                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. I am inspired by the lives of the saints to serve God, the Church and others with greater focus  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Sainthood is a lofty, unachievable goal  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. Sainthood, by God’s grace, is possible   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. Holiness is a work that God performs in us, we must simply respond to his invitation to holiness | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. To become a saint, one must be a priest or consecrated religious                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| h. Sainthood is not important in the modern world   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| i. Modern life makes becoming a saint much more difficult   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| j. We celebrate the saints in our parish  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



1. Who is the “holiest” person you know? Why do you think of them as “holy”?

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2. It has been said that the three things are required to become a Saint: Choosing God, eliminating those things in our lives that are incompatible with God, and fostering a relationship with God. Which of these do you believe is the most difficult and why?

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3. What could we do as a parish community to help people become Saints?

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**“I see a parish where all people can hear the voice of God calling them and actively respond to their baptismal call, their vocation – to the ordained life, consecrated religious, married or single life”**

*A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people*  
(POPE FRANCIS, JANUARY 16, 2014)



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

**In my parish community:**

a. we see “a vocation” as a calling	1	2	3	4	5
b. we are encouraged to discover and explore our vocation	1	2	3	4	5
c. we are given opportunities to discover and explore our vocation	1	2	3	4	5
d. there is ongoing formation and events to help strengthen our vocations	1	2	3	4	5
e. we value the vocation of the ordained	1	2	3	4	5
f. we value the vocation of marriage and family life	1	2	3	4	5
g. we value the vocation of the consecrated religious	1	2	3	4	5
h. we value the vocation of the single life for the sake of the Kingdom	1	2	3	4	5



1. What does it mean to hear the voice of God calling you?

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2. How did you personally come to know your vocation?

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3. If you do not know your vocation, what are you doing to discover it? How did you personally come to know your vocation?

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**“[In] the Parish I see, the clergy are not over-burdened because they have good men and women around them, supporting them in their leadership and exercising appropriate leadership themselves”**



Reflect on the following statements (1–strongly disagree, 3–not sure, 5–strongly agree)

a. A pastor is responsible for leading the parish	1	2	3	4	5
b. A pastor needs the support of members of the community in order to lead well	1	2	3	4	5
c. In my parish, the pastor draws on the gifts and talents of the community	1	2	3	4	5
d. I feel called to contribute more in the life of the parish	1	2	3	4	5
e. If I was asked, I would consider assisting in leadership	1	2	3	4	5
f. I would like to grow in my leadership skills	1	2	3	4	5



1. What could helping your pastor in their leadership look like?

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2. How would this change if he asked you to work closely with him?

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3. It has been said, “people aren’t well-rounded, but teams can be”. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a team approach to parish leadership?

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4. Are leaders born or made?

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5. How is a team different from a council?

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**“The person of Jesus and his invitation to “Come and see” and then to “go and make” is at the heart of the Parish I see and, in that parish, good things grow and our buildings can scarcely contain us.”**



1. How are vision and growth connected?

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2. How do you feel about the idea that in a renewed parish, “our buildings can scarcely contain us”?

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3. Do you think renewing your parish community is possible? Why or why not?

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4. It has been proven by several studies that when congregations are “living the vision”, financial giving increases dramatically (<https://dow.sh/CatholicGenoristy>) Why do you think this might be?

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5. Excluding the size of the congregation, what are other aspects of your parish that could grow?

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THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING  
**"THE PARISH I SEE"**  
PLEASE TURN THE PAGE



## THANK YOU & NEXT STEPS

Thank you for taking the time to reflect, discern, and honestly respond to these questions and activities. We hope that this time of prayer, reflection and discussion has filled you with hope and awakened passion for what could be when our parishes become "Come & See, Go & Make" communities, centred around the person of Jesus.

Please offer your reflections and discernment to your parish leadership – your pastor, and Parish Pastoral Council and/or Leadership Team.

If you feel comfortable doing so, we would invite you to put your name and contact details below. This will enable your parish leadership to make contact with you, should there be a need for clarification or further elaboration on the insights you have shared..

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

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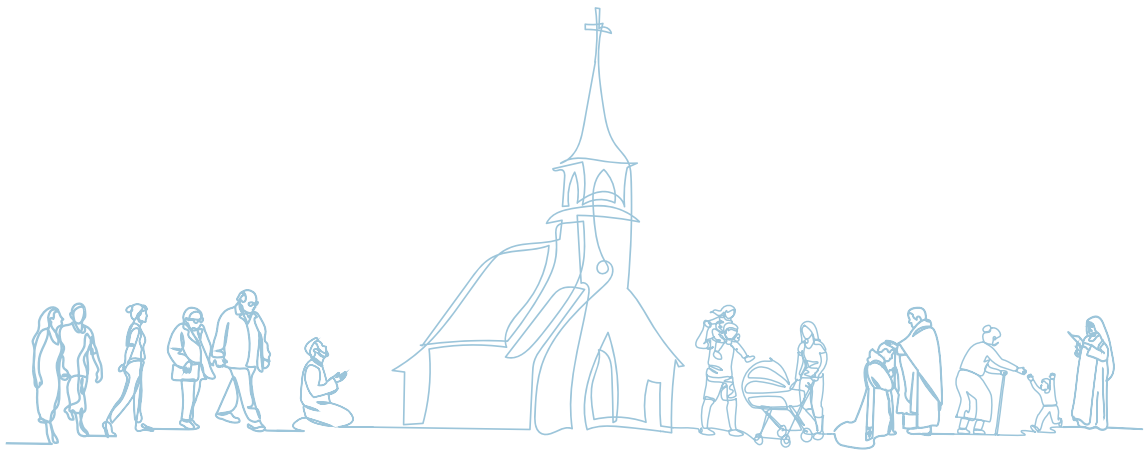
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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
**WOLLONGONG**