

RESPONSES TO DISCERNMENT

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is a joyful, hope-filled and servant community?

Number of people in your group	Submission text
6	<p>A Joyful, Hope-filled & Servant Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering a sense of community around action rather than just going to mass • Priests being open to allowing parishioners to instigate initiatives in the Parish • The rules need to be reviewed so that everyone feels included eg. Gay people or divorced people
8	<p>In Matthew 6:25-34 we discerned the Kingdom is truly now, not just in the future. It is not about 'ruling' but living as equals in relationship with each other, alive in Jesus. In order for us to become a 'Kingdom' servant community we must start with a servant leadership that does not seek to rule, rejects clericalism, recognises we all belong and are valued through our common Baptism, and which calls on and utilises the gifts and talents of all. Clericalism in its many manifestations stifles a servant community.</p> <p>Equally we must embrace the development of small communities where people are seen and heard within parishes, truly essential to parish renewal. Small groups are personal and relationship-driven. That's how Jesus worked in his ministry. In his sitting down with people, speaking his word to them and in the breaking of bread, Jesus gave hope and that's the 'joy' we too need to rediscover in the celebration of the Eucharist - witnessed so clearly in home masses.</p>
7	<p>1. Listening to the passage of scripture I feel drawn to.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fraternal love of Early Christians - Notice how the Holy Spirit moved among all members building up the whole Community of faith. We also exhibit this as a community, but not to the same degree. <p>2. Listening to the Holy Spirit through the voices of this group, I have heard.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation emphasised in the Mass at all levels and hospitality. - Spontaneous response to the moment of need. - Hearing the Holy Spirit speak through each of us. - Gathering together in a variety of different ways so as to get to know each other better and include all people in the Parish Family. - Make a conscious effort to speak to people who are visitors or strangers to our Parish Family. - Reach out to people who have stopped coming to Mass. - Greeting people coming to Mass is among the most important things we do. - Share and have the courage to follow through with others, and trust in God! <p>3. From my prayer today liste</p>
8	<p>Thinking Nationally:</p> <p>Consider how our Bishops might connect Pastorally to the people in their Diocese – sometimes less formally. Bishops (as decision makers) to agree together on decisions made in leading dioceses.</p> <p>Action an Arbour day in synch with the environmental message from Pope Francis. For example - every parishioner plants a tree!</p> <p>Demonstrate leadership on issues such as euthanasia, refugees etc and present an alternative.</p> <p>Advertise Church services – celebrations at Christmas and Easter more widely.</p> <p>Introduce a 'National Day of Prayer' – exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in every Parish with participating Priests.</p> <p>Introduce via mass media a campaign that shows what we do and why we do it eg. 'life be in it'. 'Sharing the Joy and sincerity'.</p> <p>Gather Catholics/Christians together at regular intervals at a national level with Catholic speakers from Australia and overseas. Advertise via local diocese and parishes. Share locations. Suggest bi-annual. Regions to supp</p>

8	<p>As a Ministerial Public Juridical Person (MPJP) we are called to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share our JOY – the good news of Ministerial Public Juridical Persons (MPJPs) in Australia. The establishment of these ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES is a great sign of hope in our church in these times. • Commit to DIALOGUE, especially with those whom we serve. We must learn from the experience of others – of their joys and hopes, their challenges and inspiration. Our tradition teaches us that listening in a spirit of humility is the way to true Wisdom. • Develop a stance of INVITATION: Support links across churches, within and beyond Australia, especially with similar groups of GOD’S FAITHFUL eg, other Ministerial PJs, Manquehue Movement in Chile... • Claim our voice and our place at the table of CHURCH GOVERNANCE, accepting both the challenge and responsibility that accompany our establishment. We understand ourselves as STEWARDS who have been gifted with a sacred trust.
5	<p>A yearning to see the church in action and recognise Jesus’s values in life today. Take care of the environment. Be appreciative of the gifts God has given us and use them to help the disadvantaged and those on the fringes of the church. Be welcoming and joyful in our ministries to one another including the poor and needy. Look after the elderly and sick in our parish and neighbourhood. Thank you</p>
15	<p>Per Jesus example - Direct away from guilt and damnation and focus on love, joy and peace. Mandatory education (eg: through an encyclical) of what it means to be a servant, eg: that it is more important for clergy to serve rather than instruct or dictate. Direct that clergy must truly listen to their flock with an overall aim to mitigate power, arrogance and corruption.</p>
8	<p>1. we need leadership opportunities for parish invigoration, to go into parishes to assist with evangelisation, we need leadership opportunities for youth suggest eco justice is what youth are interested in, could be a youth eco council at a diocesan level 2. Resources for faith formation for all, the rosary was a focus, need better prayer apps for family prayer and podcasts for young adults and 3. Better connection opportunities with other communities including Indigenous and refugee the bookends of society.</p>
6	<p>God is calling the Church in Australia to be more INTERESTING TO its members and other Australians. It must be more obviously INTERESTED IN its individual members, their groups and the wider community. This can only occur at the local “micro” level (diocese, parish, small community/group) but it needs enthusiastic support, not mere toleration, from Church leaders at the “macro” level. There will be a clearer enabling of discernment, management, action and interaction at local levels. More, probably smaller, Catholic communities where people feel more at home will appear. An authentic “Australian-flavoured” Catholic Church using, whenever possible, language and symbols relevant to its 21st century members and their many cultures, will be born. A lay person, a woman initially, will be appointed as the day-to-day, public face and voice of the Church in Australia. We will leave each Sunday Eucharist commanded to enact in our lives each week what we have just celebrated with Christ.</p>
7	<p>Group 1 – A Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We look for a church that is more a mystical, prayerful community, rather than an organisation that is concerned with money and power. - We seek joyful Eucharistic celebrations with more laity involvement, and more welcoming of newcomers. - There should be a variety of liturgies, both charismatic and more meditative. - Involve youth in service and they will find connections to the community. - More advocacy for refugees, homeless, prisoners, as well as concrete actions from our all church leaders, ie all Bishops, along the lines of Pope Francis visiting prisoners, visiting refugees and asylum seekers, the aged, homeless in shelters - We would like to see our (and all) Dioceses and Parishes organised by committed lay people who can support the clergy in their specific pastoral ministry roles.

7	<p>Group 2 – A Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognising that conversion starts with the individual, preaching and catechesis should take seriously the teaching that the kingdom is present in the here and now (cf. Vatican 2 on the secular character of the lay vocation: “the laity seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs” – Lumen Gentium par.31). - Reverse the sequence which seems to be currently in force: behave, believe, belong – where church membership appears to be conditional on good behaviour and right belief – so that the local Church is known as an open and welcoming community where the experience of belonging leads to faith and Christian living. - And, more specifically following the example of Francis Bishop of Rome, that outreach to those on the margins be given greater priority so that these individuals and communities feel at home in our gatherings.
6	<p>Redressing women’s longstanding systemic disadvantage and invisibility Church laws/ teaching must be gender inclusive Leadership promotes equality and treats women equal to men Clericalism shouldn’t impede contributions of women to Church mission Women provided with opportunities for genuine leadership in Church Governance and decision making Church Hierarchy shows genuine repentance and transparency for sexual abuse Australian bishops acknowledge apologise nationally for wrongs committed in Australia. Hold public liturgies or national Mass of repentance/ healing that acknowledges past mistakes across Australia. Bishops and Priests welcome all- women divorced gay thus demonstrating genuine Servant Leadership Schools strengthen the faith of students staff and parents through faith/ sacramental formation and provide opportunities for parents young adults and parishioners to gather/ socialize. Parishes provide opportunities for people to be involved in reflections on the Gospel.</p>
8	<p>National Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The church needs to get back to basics, to act in a way that people will trust in the church again. Only then will others return. 2. We all must accept the challenge to participate once again in the church & the liturgy. 3. Bishops must stand shoulder to shoulder with the Laity and walk with us. <p>Local Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We must continue to meet & lead by our example in our community. EG: helping others, meals on wheels, providing religious services for those in aged care. 2. There was an obvious “joyfulness” within our congregation after our church held the 3rd rite of Reconciliation. This needs to continue to give parishioners the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Penance. Most people prefer this form of Reconciliation. 3. Encourage positive sermons, give hope that by living good lives & following the faith we will reach our God. 4. Take steps to enhance ecumenical connections & activities in our community.
5	<p>Focus on Community. make the Church more accessible. Reach out to people make personal contact Address disconnect between Church and School communities A church that is less clerical less ritualistic Seen in the street / park / shopping malls make a survey of parish weaknesses needs goals</p>
7	<p>The church needs to make a concerted effort to be heavily involved in social media. The church needs to be more open in our relationships and interactions with other Christian churches, other religious groups and other community groups. The church needs to more actively promoted environmental issues.</p>
10	<p>If the Spirit of God is within us and our parishes, and if we allow the God in us to greet the God in the other, we will be joyful, hope-filled and servant communities. To achieve this we need to allow the space for Jesus to be in their lives. The primary need therefore is education in how, when, and where to pray, including contemplation and meditation on the scriptures, and the formation of prayer groups in parishes and Catholic organisations. Prayer must be at the centre of our Catholic life. In this way we become oriented to God’s mission and allow space for God to take over and generate the energy for our ministries. Small Christian Communities, from prayer and reflection groups to full service groups, can lead parishes to become servant communities. We need to commit to finding better ways to engage with all our stakeholders, both within and outside our parishes, to truly be missionary, to truly be servant communities.</p>

10	<p>God is calling us to heal the Church through creating Trust & Faith. However, this takes time. Corruption is rife in society – the Funeral industry, Aged care industry, Banks, care for Disabled, Parliament – it is part of a bigger problems regarding institutions in Australia- not just the Church. It's a problem In this world, not of the world. Therefore the way forward is to rebuild trust through Church Leadership focusing back onto Jesus and the Holy Spirit – remember J.O.Y: Jesus first, Others second, Yourself third. Furthermore, this trust can be increased by the Church being Honest and being Humble. Face the problems & issues – acknowledge, forgive and repair. Create the Catholic identity – Christ is present in the Mass through the Eucharist, focus on the role of Mary, role of Peter – Pope- Holy Spirit – keeping people of God together. During the Arian Heresy it was the laity who saved the Church – not Bishops... and the same can apply today.</p>
10	<p>God is calling the Church to be more serving and less corporate – for example Vinnies now focusing on profitability, resulting in too much focus on fund raising, high prices in stores, and a decline of helping those in real need through home visits. Church needs to be more Christ-centred, serving our community. Another example is of the Catholic schools becoming more corporate due to pressures from Curriculum, govt. expectations, teacher burnout, and reductions in spiritual literacy of teachers. More focus required on Christian values, not Corporate values.</p>
10	<p>God is calling us to Focus on the membership of the church – Remind the Australian community of the healing power of the Eucharist – turn to the Church in times of need instead of turning to addictions such as alcohol, gambling, medications – and the Catholic Church should use advertising and media to remind the community with this message.</p>
51	<p>Rebuilding the reputation of the church by being proactive and energetic in the community with a community first focus instead of self-interest.</p>
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We feel that we are a servant community, without necessarily being involved with the formalities of the Catholic Church. viz our participants are involved with local agencies such as Vinnies Conference, Community Kitchen (is Catholic Care) & other community welfare or education organisations. 2. Hope-filled: we hope that our priests reflect the hopes & aspirations of Vatican II (two). 3. we hope that laity will be more involved; both male & female laity. 4. Q: What is "the Church" today ? 5. Rigidity of Mass is not joyful. (its respectful, contemplative, prayerful). Liturgies, where there is community involvement, are joyful.
45	<p>Small groups and communities that meet locally for adult formation, faith development and prayer, e.g. Catholic Alpha. Greater engagement of young people at parish level, through youth groups and prayer activities. True leadership and inclusion of the laity in all roles in the Church. Greater transparency through information sharing and laity engagement across all levels of Church.</p>
6	<p>Ministry is not an organ for formation in clericalism (more than 1 form of ministry) A screening process in seminaries which is honest and as objective as possible and aimed at prevention of abuse in all its forms</p>
6	<p>The Church's role is to proclaim and live the gospel of Jesus Christ - therefore all members should be taught the Gospel, to read and be helped to read the scriptures and children engaged in the planning of the scriptures for their education. The Church is to be inclusive in the service of Church such that Church gives women a fairer share of the work such as female leaders in parish</p>
6	<p>Youth focused More celebrations, TV and social media presence bringing music, prayer and meditation to the youth More collaboration between states/dioceses so all are on the same page/same understanding Women deacons and women acolytes</p>
6	<p>Catholic schools to be more active in promoting the Mass and Catechism classes within the Catholic schools Young people to express their life experiences in meeting God by living the message of Pentecost Restore 3rd Rite of Reconciliation to parishes</p>
30	<p>We gathered a group of sisters who identified the following as ways we could contribute to this area A joyful, hope-filled and servant Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and resource the opportunity for people to gather and share their gifts and concerns and to build connections. • To support this group toward action and advocacy in the areas that is of most concern to them. • Put our resources; influence to support the Spirit at work in others.

7	<p>Change Nature of Plenary Council - (i) 3rd of people need to be lay people - ask Bishops to decide to include more lay people; and (2) invite members of Bishops' Conference/Plenary Council to visit local Community Groups and listen to their needs.</p> <p>Encourage an Open and Inclusive Church - change/modify Church Law to include women, the LGBTQI communities and those divorced and remarried.</p> <p>Promote Servant Leadership for a Humble Church - (i) education of Church Hierarchy by lay people re the vital works of the likes of St Vinnies, etc; and (2) Change in Church Governance e.g. Parish Council for all parishes and Diocesan Councils for all Dioceses.</p>
7	<p>Change the Composition of the Priesthood - (i) women priests and married priests - more attuned to needs of families; (ii) parents are more attuned to development of families; and (iii) more joyful communities would result.</p> <p>Renew our Focus on the Poor and Marginalised - (i) Plenary Council/Bishops' Conference make a statement of support for those organisations within the Church that give support to the the poor and marginalised in our community e.g. Vinnies, Caritas;and (ii) more encouragement for Catholics to become more involved in Social Justice.</p> <p>Make the Liturgy More Relevant - suggest that the Australian Catholic Church employ a group of people gifted in the English language to re-write the three (3) Penitential Prayers and Peoples' responses so that they are expressed in everyday language.</p> <p>Protect and Restore the Earth - Australian Catholic Church establish an Education for Change Group.</p>
30	<p>That the Australian Catholic Church makes decisions and carries out its ministry mindful of the standards of the Gospel, asking What Would Jesus Do?</p> <p>That the Australian Church embrace a lively spirituality around the rich vision of Vatican II still to be realised, and especially as expressed through "Laudato Si".</p> <p>That the Australian Church, through its parishes and agencies, institute protocols enabling the exercise of climate justice.</p> <p>That the Australian Catholic Church focus on the cries of the poor and foster a spirituality of justice, peace and care of creation.</p> <p>That small house churches be encouraged and allowed to flourish.</p>
10	<p>Joyful: show more joy!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joyful liturgies • Inclusive & joyful music • Declare a 'Year of Joy' • WYD: shows universality of Church • Witness joy in the community through our actions eg smiling • Bring joy to others by service • People, including children & youth, involved in preparing and taking role in Mass and music <p>Hope-filled: Resources and education to grow our faith, which is the source of our hope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retreat days for laity • Booklets, daily reflections, apps/online resources, bible studies to support a range of prayer types <p>Servant – being the hands and feet of Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church to be outspoken on social justice ('voice for the voiceless') & environment issues (as Laudato Si) • Practice environmental responsibility as an organisation • Mental health & nursing home outreach • Support groups and practical help for young families • Revive 'social + spiritual' youth groups • Consistent application of support (eg national Vinnies guidelines)
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Change the formation of Priests so that JOY is an aim and is developed.. 2 That victims of abuse be acknowledged more readily and the details of the redress scheme be more publicly advertised and made more rapidly accessible. 3 That the situation of confession and forgiveness of abuse be clarified to indicate that forgiveness can't be given unless recompense is guaranteed. 4 At Pentecost there be during the Mass a public renewal by all the faithful of commitment, including a commitment to service. This needs to be planned and advertised the week before to be meaningful.. 5 Create a national profile of "Servant Community" which can be used by Parish Councils to assess their parish and make whatever changes are necessary. 6 That there be a more concerted effort to create communities in Parishes so that people can enjoy each others' company, know each other and be more aware of others' needs. 7 Some inter-Parish activities or meetings could stimulate community building.

12	<p>We pray that the Church will implement programs and safe-guards to ensure Catholic Schools engage faith filled, practicing teachers who may be living examples to students of the Catholic faith, values and way of life.</p> <p>We pray that the Church will implement educational & cultural programs to better prepare & train clergy coming to Australia to communicate & assimilate more effectively & efficiently in their Parish communities.</p> <p>We pray that the Church will implement action plans & programs for all Diocese's to access to better engage with and involve more deeply the youth of Australia.</p>
6	<p>Provide funds and infrastructure for retreat centres for spiritual formation and prayer to nurture faith development and spiritual growth in parishes</p>
6	<p>Get involved - become vocal about reconciliation - be aware of environment internationally and nationally</p> <p>Messages from the pulpit with good news about what is happening and how we can all participate</p> <p>Serious consideration of amazonian recommendations to ordain viri probati</p> <p>Clericalism needs to be expelled - parish council needs to be the decision maker not the priest</p>
7	<p>A joyful, hope-filled and Servant Community</p> <p>We exhorted by Jesus not to worry about our tomorrow what we will eat and where we live and what we will wear, not worrying is not the same as not taking sensible precautions and planning for our future and the future of others.</p> <p>Pope Francis exhorts us to care for our environment, to cease pollution of water, air and biosphere; To work for an even distribution of the gifts of creation; To share with the less fortunate and to look after the poor and disadvantaged in our midst. We need to find ways as Catholics to live our faith and share this with others.</p> <p>We recommend that our diocese and the Plenary Council actively pursue social justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work publically to get asylum seekers off Manus and Naru • Support the Aboriginal Nations' Uluru statement • Develop long and short term affordable housing for homeless people
50	<p>Most strongly supported. Encourage all to visit the sick</p> <p>Very strongly supported Defend right-to-life issues</p> <p>Youth encouraged by older people to take a lead.</p> <p>Pay for good musicians at Mass.</p> <p>Care for the environment.</p> <p>Defend human/legal rights of refugees, asylum seekers</p> <p>Strongly supported Greater trust, faith in God</p> <p>Care for neighbour a priority</p> <p>Mass to be joyful, appealing to youth and children</p> <p>Outreach to wider community</p> <p>Hold remembrance services of healing for those who have lost babies (miscarriage, abortion)</p> <p>Some support Give witness to society of care for others</p> <p>Use finances to show service of those in need</p> <p>Put Gospel values into action</p> <p>Give blessings to those who serve us.</p> <p>Encourage availability of Spiritual Exercises for the mentally ill</p> <p>Advertise TV Masses for the sick.</p> <p>Promote outreach to prisoners and their families.</p> <p>Emphasise acceptance rather than sin.</p>
6	<p>The call to be a servant community is the ideal for all Christians so that others are encouraged by our acceptance, care, prayerfulness and above all, our ideal to live the best we can. In accepting this call our community can only be enriched and enlivened which then presents a challenge for the younger members to live this call. Pope Francis models for us how to live the Christian life. Prayerfulness and action go hand in hand.</p> <p>Our community is a servant community that reaches out to those in need e.g. Vinnies Van. Our call to service follows our celebration of the Eucharist where we gather as a community. We have the obligation to be aware of happenings around us and should respond as Jesus would. We need to recognise our neighbour in everyone, not just those we are comfortable serving.</p>

5	<p>1. Enliven our celebrations (other than Mass) by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting simple language Encouraging joyful praise More inclusion of community members in active roles Allowing for spontaneity <p>2. Require all bishops to spend one day each month in a frontline (“coal face”) community service role.</p> <p>3. Consider ways to meet young families where they are, to develop fun-filled faith communities outside of the weekend Mass paradigm. Promote evangelisation through relationship.</p> <p>4. Develop liturgy/prayers which use everyday language and simple ritual that is understandable and engaging for people.</p> <p>5. For the celebration of Eucharist with school aged children, consult with/use the expertise and knowledge of teachers to develop an appropriate homily and encourage children’s involvement.</p>
15	<p>Catholics for Renewal Inc prioritises the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure modelling of the ideal “See how these Christians love one another” – in parish communities, ecumenically and interreligiously Be a church primarily engaged in the coming Reign of God Assist the church to rediscover and live the Gospel call to be grounded in hope, joy and the gifts of the Spirit Tangibly, across the church, embrace the spirit and teaching of Pope Francis ”No’ to all forms of clericalism” (Pope Francis) Embody a seismic institutional shift that will give heart to people: hierarchical accountability, transparency, inclusivity and the long-overdue valuing of the ministry of women and the LGBTIQ community <p>We refer you to extensive details in support, and further major actions, in our submission/book Getting Back on Mission: Reforming Our Church Together - copies have been provided to all Australian bishops and the Facilitation team.</p>
5	<p>Acknowledgement of different forms of praying, allowing all christians to feel part of the community. Implement a consistent, inclusive Sacramental program process across the Diocese.</p> <p>Discussion on acknowledging society no longer works 9-5 and christians attend mass on various days and times throughout the week, not everyone can be part of the weekend obligation.</p> <p>Change of language in the Eucharist/Mass to be revisited within an Australian context. Less formal and including an acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land.</p> <p>Reintroduce the Third Rite of reconciliation.</p> <p>Further develop outreach programs within schools and Parishes.</p>
20	<p>Mass books for children.</p> <p>Making mass child-friendly through music - using high-energy hymns.</p> <p>Model of servant leadership - priestly servant ministry - professional learning.</p> <p>Focus from a parish perspective of inclusion - Harmony Day, World Day of disability.</p> <p>Bring joy to Church - welcoming initiatives in each parish.</p> <p>Mini-Vinnies initiatives.</p> <p>Inclusion of all people - multicultural, indigenous - have a person responsible in each parish for this.</p> <p>Teachers that demonstrate their own personal faith - eg. seeing them at Mass.</p> <p>Teaching children about the honour and privilege of going to Mass.</p> <p>School-based Sacramental Programs - make them part of the curriculum.</p> <p>Having priests that relate to their community - make more people wanting to come to Mass.</p> <p>More community outreach opportunities.</p> <p>Invite community to parish events.</p> <p>Videos instead of readings to help children connect with scripture.</p> <p>Praying the Rosary as a school.</p> <p>Choir at Mass on Fridays - connecting school to the parish.</p>

4	<p>Church shouldn't just be about Sunday Mass. We need to encourage and make faith active (literally) within the church more visible (via outreach and community groups) so all parishioner get involved. Participation the key word! Give more focus on serving the church and local community as Jesus commanded us. We want to make parishioners feel a part of a living church (not just a 4 walled building). The church is us!</p> <p>Have more community events - open to anyone and everyone locally. Make the Church not just an exclusive believers group only. Show our community that the Catholic Church are more than recent tragic sexual abuse scandals. We're a loving, caring and faithful family serving a loving and rock solid God.</p> <p>Mass doesn't allow for real group interaction. To encourage more group dialogue during Peace Greeting time - allow it to be longer so people can talk and commune with other parishioners. Not just a hand shake but say 2-3 mins actually properly greeting others.</p>
5	<p>Small Groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the Bishops and parish priests to support and help strengthen the existence of small groups in their parishes. 2. For RCIA members to be linked to sponsors in their Church community 3. That Lenten and Advent home groups be announced and encouraged to form with stimulating, low cost programmes. 4. That Passionist Family Groups be annually promoted for new Families and new groups to be formed in the parish with renewal days, presentations and communication to the parishes. <p>Leadership by the laity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. That Laity positions of leadership be granted authority to carry out their roles. Lay leaders can reach out by invitation to new or disengaged members to take a role in practicing their faith. 6. That the Laity Leadership roles be accompanied by National Manuals for individuals in a leadership role to access. These manuals will guide the laity while they take up leadership in their parish
5	<p>What actions do we feel strongly towards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our group felt strongly about having opportunities to reflect, speak and listen in small groups where we reveal our vulnerability about our faith. This would help us grow in hope that the Catholic Church can show that it brings kindness and care to others. • Our group felt the leadership roles that the laity held in the parishes should be afforded with faith formation, invitation and authority. <p>What is the most loving response that the Holy Spirit is calling us to?</p> <p>To build hope for a faith –filled Catholic Community who celebrate together and care for their families and their Church family and then the wider community.</p>
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354	<p>Catholic schools are not producing Catholics. The Catholic school system we have today was created for a different age and the system has been inherited rather than designed for the Church today. Instead, it has transformed into welfare for middle/upper-class parents who want the benefits of private education at half the price and are willing to tolerate occasional references to God.</p> <p>Our school curriculum no longer makes teaching and living the Catholic faith a priority. Very few teachers, parents or students are practicing Catholics.</p> <p>The Church should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge that the Catholic education system is broken. It is not producing strong Catholics; it is inoculating children against the great truth of Catholicism; • Acknowledge that this exposure to a poorly taught curriculum that is rife with errors sees children abandon their faith at a young age; • Restructure the Catholic education system so that its purpose, first and foremost, is teaching the faith clearly, strongly and joyfully
8	<p>Women have the right to be deacons For priests to have the right to choose to be married Women to have the right to be priests The right to have Laity involved in leading liturgies Structure of Mass more inclusive Youth involvement/network Engage young men in discussions that are relevant</p>
3	<p>Making a conscious effort, on a daily basis to bring joy and hope to the community through our actions, such as taking the time to talk to someone in need, offering help or support to others, volunteering time etc.</p> <p>In schools, guide students to volunteer in the community, and spread joy and hope to the ostracized, sick, aged, lonely etc</p>
25	<p>Candidates for priesthood - time for women to join and the opportunity to marry Right to life issues - teenagers need to see fairness, brave issues Joyful - relatable fun is important, it is foreign for our children to see priest involvement in their lives. Why? Servant Community - for families, school and individuals Practise what you preach from the top down leaders - Church > Leadership > school community > teachers > families At times teachers feel there is no support for their role with workload, support, structures, autonomy and respect.</p>
3	<p>- Altering the lens in which we analyse and interpret scripture to ensure it is providing opportunities for hope and joy in future planning and development.</p>
11	<p>National:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church to be more present in media ie State and National newspapers, multi- media, websites with links; PROCLAIMING THE GOOD WORK. 2. Education – How is what we do important to the Catholic Church? ie Snippets of explanations on the elements of mass communicated during mass; understanding the symbols during mass; use lay terms. Increase faith education to the adults. 3. National collection for services – ie police, fire, ambulance; disaster relief. “Being a witness to society” <p>Local:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greeting each other before mass; holding hands for the Our Father; recognising special events ie birthdays; wedding anniversaries; make Priest part of our family. 2. Focus on Families and Children participation and involvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - kids do readings; - youth mass; - young people activities ie BBQ after mass; social activities. 3. Parish Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify people who require visitations; start with those from within church.
NA (submitted via PC email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further the Popes desire for the domestic Church to become active again: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rejuvenate Church in the home o Home masses if possible o Shared meals – breaking open the word o Home gatherings – inviting people who have been disassociated from the Church • What is the Council of Churches is doing and how it is bringing us together – we need this to be better known • Climate Change – how can we continue to address this issue

NA (submitted via PC email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Church to assess priorities with regards to Ministries to the marginalised e.g. Mental health, Prison Ministry and Sexual abuse victims
NA (submitted via PC email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music in mass is a way to increase joy and can be a way to involve more parishioners particularly the young, however it can be overdone and take away rather than add to the reverence of the mass – there are those who appreciate a quiet mass • Education to all on the help that is available: Divorce Tribunal; Natural fertility control; unplanned pregnancies – this can show the parishioner that the Church can give them hope in God’s mercy • The Third Rite of Reconciliation can give hope to those who feel they have cut themselves off • Homilies on God’s mercy to show that no matter the situation, there is hope • Lenten and Advent programs are excellent and there is a call for bible study on prayer program • The Rosary, Benediction and Exposition should be part of the Parish Liturgy and need promotion in the Parish and among individuals • There is, and will be an even greater need for our Australian Priests to accept and help our overseas trained priests to understand our culture and how our parishes are run • More volunteers are needed in parish Ministry and more formation and education is needed for them
NA (submitted via PC email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of parents, greater involvement sacramental preparation • Priests act in the person of Christ who was male.
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Be welcoming & inclusive of all, e.g. divorced, gay, LGBTI 2) Acknowledgement of country 3) Celebrate baptisms as part of the Mass 4) Invite people to Church with you 5) Have ‘welcomers’ trained 6) The entire congregation pronounces the Solemn Doxology
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acknowledgement of country (consider the First Peoples on whose land we worship). It is confession and reconciliation action. 2) Smile and say hello 3) Engage with/learn from others who do good 4) Multicultural language resources – newsletters – notices 5) “Always preach the Gospel. If necessary use words.” 6) Knowing our faith (Adult Education) 7) “Leave the temple/supper room and go outside” – take a risk – make a difference 8) Liturgical/Scriptural resources available in church (Lenten/Advent prayers & reflections) 9) Recognise Safeguarding without hindering relationships. 10) Integrated Parish life – including children/everyone with adults, not segregated (‘welcomers’, ‘collectors’) 11) Encouraging multi-generational church connections

17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Active participation of the Eucharistic Celebration of the whole family on a daily basis or at least on Sundays. 2) The almost total absence of young people at mass deprives the liturgy of vitality. The question must be asked – where are the youth, the young married? 3) In the context of the “prayerful and Eucharistic” segment, restoration of the Tridentine mass would be a positive move. 4) Acknowledging every person in our community publically. 5) Teaching people about their faith in a fun and dynamic way. 6) Create a culture where people can talk about faith. 7) Help people to have a relationship with Christ. 8) Teaching people to be a missionary disciple. 9) Involve congregation actively in participation in music in liturgy. 10) Church must actively care for poor and needy – use church resources to feed the hungry and homeless. 11) We cannot be a happy church while our brothers and sisters are homeless. 12) Young people will be energised in the church by vibrant liturgy, active service of the poor; have vibrant music as part of liturgy – of all types Gregorian and modern. 13) Acknowledgement of traditional custodians at the beginning of Mass said by leader. 14) Acknowledgement of traditional custodians plaque in all churches, parish halls and schools. 15) Community to model loving family (humble, healing and merciful) 16) Good liturgy – new music – good responses – uplifting, positive, - joy-filled, alive. 17) Welcoming joy-filled culture: Look at each other; greet like long lost friend; sincere; love. 18) Be kind! 19) Priest acknowledges and welcomes new parishioners during Mass. 20) Parishioners encouraged to introduce themselves to new parishioners. 21) Encourage new parishioners to identify if they would like to participate in any of the parish groups – SVDP, music, youth group. 22) Overseas mission – Sudan building wells. 23) Sister parish to help during drought conditions – fetes, donations. 24) Giftedness – inclusion – belonging (drawn in a triangle). Groups, ministry programs to encourage.
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To bring the social teachings of the church to all the faithful starting in our schools at Prep 2) Celebrate and expand the outreach we already have (Vinnies, Rosies, orange Sky, etc.) 3) Provide more opportunities for all ages to be involved. 4) “See how these Christians love one another” -Tertullian 5) We must remember the reason we do this – Jesus! 6) Professional leadership teams running parishes (as schools do) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Transparency through reviews b) Strategic Planning c) Recognising gifts of lay people. 7) Basics – Prayer resources for families 8) Spend less on Youth Ministry and put money into sacramental families <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) more community b) more money on plate c) more formed youth as they grow.
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the church fully embrace its mission with an explicit focus on outreach to those on the margins, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) -outreach to homeless b) - outreach to families struggling with parenting and relationship issues, through redistribution of resources and wealth to those most in need. 2) Promote good work being done in line with the Gospel values. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Connecting with media to share and celebrate the good work of the catholic Church b) News from Archdiocese/pulpit. 3) Creating joyful Mass: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Music (\$) b) Happy, positive teaching from pulpit

5	<p>1) Communication initiatives in order to reach new audiences and present different messages. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Unpacking 'Laudato Si' – embracing vision for caring for creation, of which we are a part b) Podcasts – homilies, scriptures c) National level re-evangelisation by ACBC not just church, but through schools & other catholic charities <p>2) Formation experiences to introduce and engage and re-engage people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National conferences/ retreats /camps for young people – interstate or intrastate b) Develop lifelong faith formation resources – make available online c) Information evenings for parents about catholic teachings (align with RE curriculum) d) Aspiring teachers <p>3) Changes in leadership – show others what is possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Qualified and experienced women and men to positions that need not be held by the ordained. b) Women in senior leadership positions
6	<p>1) To increase inclusion we could: Rite of Blessing for same-sex and divorced remarried couples</p> <p>2) Official Statement from Bishop's to welcome all Australians to the church (inclusive of those who feel isolated by church teaching and tradition)</p> <p>3) Official apology for abuse of privilege and power of the Catholic Church in Australia</p> <p>4) Welcome and acknowledge diversity by embracing multi-cultural prayer and responses to scripture (within liturgy)</p> <p>5) Begin Mass and liturgy with Acknowledgement of country.</p>
6	<p>1) Liturgy – alive, hope-filled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Homilies relevant – shared by laity and priests b) In a 24hr world - mass is not always accessible – how else to engage? c) Different types of prayer to engage different groups for different occasions. <p>2) Shared leadership to build community – share gifts of community through Ministry. (Some may need to be paid for service) – welcome women in positions of leadership.</p> <p>3) If we are to welcome all as an inclusive community – how does this get extended to groups such as LGBTQI; divorced people.</p>
6	<p>1) Provide times to share the Christ in us with others.</p> <p>2) Work on our ushers and hospitality people</p> <p>3) Pew partners – sit in new seats</p> <p>4) Have people share their stories with the congregation, perhaps in the newsletter or on video screen.</p>
4	<p>1) Share positive stories/ communicate joyful info about the church using multiple media platforms & various representatives/ participants of the faithful – to Catholics and wider community.</p> <p>2) Make attractive to diverse audiences e.g. Catholics, non-Catholics, youth, multicultural groups</p> <p>3) Move away from always being Bishop</p> <p>4) Explore faith groups within parishes – establish & support – get people involved</p> <p>5) Encourage people to attend one activity per month e.g. SVDP, Bible Study, Rosary</p> <p>6) Engender Christian Community – Communitarianism</p> <p>7) National Committee researching work/life balance in 21st century. Produce ideas, structures, materials for parishes to engage with their local community as it is not was.</p> <p>8) Making Mass relevant to the community and needs of the suburb – make liturgy joyful and community based – look for opportunities to celebrate.</p>
6	<p>1) Provide more opportunities to promote a personal encounter with Jesus – retreats, prayer groups etc. Important to take into account diversity of groups.</p> <p>2) Put Catholic stories in secular newspapers. Involve business links in Catholic activities/ catholic voice in business.</p> <p>3) Commit to practices of inclusion for all – establish National think tank to explore the way the church alienates some of its members – women, divorced, gay people.</p> <p>4) Take out a parish subscription to the Tablet</p>

4	<p>1) Celebrate Catholics and the good we do in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Open days at churches/parishes b) Communicate through media/social media the different aspects of church, our functions, mission c) Share stories of fruits (changed lives) d) Thank volunteers – Mass or dinner e) Welcome packs new people <p>2) Use Alpha Nationally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Builds inclusivity & community b) Builds engagement c) Creates opportunities for encounters with God d) Builds invitational culture e) Builds leaders f) Changed lives through encounter with Jesus <p>3) Identify & Welcome new people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Book at church to record contact details b) Create handouts for new parishioners with information about Church/Parish c) Welcome at door and in pews d) Priest guide people to meet new people and pray for them during Mass <p>4) Engage Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Create competition (local & national) to write music for Masses b) Youth masses with youth from all parishes in deanery c) Use music (upbeat) to engage all ages <p>5) Invite unchurched and disengaged to participate in plenary council process</p> <p>6) Develop skills of laity to support clergy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Build strength based leadership teams to support parish/ ministry b) Peaceful retreats/ opportunities for faith formation to build strengths/gifts of laity c) Parish prayer meetings
6	<p>1) Social Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Commit to practices of inclusion b) Cath church be a voice on issues of marginalising <p>2) Gatherings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) BBQ's, social events after Mass b) Dinners/ feast day celebrations – create more community c) Create opportunities to provide personal encounters with Christ <p>3) Open day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Of outsiders to visit our churches b) Open once a year - Shares our faith more widely
6	<p>1) Welcoming Community</p> <p>Parishes establish welcoming group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) before Mass (recognise 'strangers'/visitors – introduce b) passes on info to other group (pastoral communicators) c) know names/people d) follow up people after sacramental involvement e) inclusive community invites LGBTQ/ disabled etc. <p>2) Sharing & Caring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Faith community aware of good news stories within people's lives b) National day of celebration c) Commission/Servant Sunday once a year d) Publicising/ communication a joyful act as work of the Holy Spirit – seen e) Publicise Good Works (parish groups) <p>3) Formation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Homilies to inspire service to others, calls for Christ centred people of God b) National resource to help priests/ inspire sermons

6	<p>Our group came up with three action proposals:</p> <p>1) The Church should undertake a national effort to promote and renew an ethic of volunteering by parishioners in Catholic parishes. Commentary: Catholics used to see volunteering as a requisite of life in the parish community; now both parents in many families work and are time poor; but they miss out on the joy of giving and helping others; In our own parish, we might undertake a program to encourage volunteering, by passing around clipboards at Sunday mass asking people to 'tick a box' for the things that they are interested in or would like to help in. This could range from helping with reading, or money counting, to welcoming, helping with JoCare, the Refugee Group, St Vincent de Paul etc.</p> <p>2) Nationally the Catholic Church might promote as specific date each year for an Annual Community Day celebration in parishes around Australia that is open to everyone in the local community. Commentary: This could be seen as a way of opening course</p>
20	<p>Action Summary.</p> <p>We need to acknowledge the positive call to service that is already being demonstrated by the Catholic schools and the wider community.</p> <p>Using the Christ lens to show an awareness of the need to serve the community, by offering those who are disadvantaged support and hope.</p> <p>To break the cycle of despair and offer real strategies of support that will set up a lifetime of hope filled lives, not just day to day survival.</p> <p>People sharing their personal experiences- continue to inspire others to see the positives in life.</p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contemporary and joyful homilies ● Call to action - parishioners and young people with a social conscience - truly ministerial (seeing the needs and faults) ● Reconsider how we reach out to the marginalised of our community - gay and lesbian, divorced, ● Open Catholic spaces to promote community through social activity ● Allow for more joy filled music/ songs that children can become involved in ● Be open to change, proactive ● Act with a sense of the current mood. ● More relevance for young people ● Remove discriminatory teachings ● Be patient and kind and accept the gifts others have to offer for the good of the community
15	<p>Outreach: 'People have left the Church, so the Church needs to leave the building'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Meet people where they are, physically, mentally, emotionally & spiritually. o Reach outside the physical & organisational structure of the Church Eg high school students see school as parish, marginalised (outreach to community), elderly (outreach to nursing homes) o For example, engage young people in their concern for environment, with bold leadership linking science & scriptural basis for stewardship. Laudato Si a good start; needs more overt action <p>Show that we are joyful and hope-filled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Attractive to others o Faith education & prayer resources to connect to the source of our joy o Joyful liturgies & hymns <p>Get our house in order: 'remove the log from our own eyes' (Matt 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Be joyful, practice gratitude o Practice sustainability, ensure resources are used ethically o Measure changes to ensure well implemented, meet objectives and do no harm o Be kind and inclusive
22	<p>That, at diocesan and local parish levels, the development of community is seriously undertaken. The Church must be open and inclusive and be a place where all people are welcome with a renewed focus on the poor, marginalised, asylum seekers, the vulnerable and disadvantaged.</p> <p>This will mean that laity, priests and bishops have co-decision making and co-responsibility.</p> <p>Canon law needs to change to allow this co-responsibility.</p> <p>Laity, priests, seminarians and bishops need to undertake education in community building skills, leadership, public relations and psychological development.</p>

38	<p>National approach to establish a small community network in parishes targeting families with young children with resources for faith formation & conversion experiences.</p> <p>National media office generating positive good works stories for the secular media and social networks.</p> <p>Create resources for students to prepare regular liturgies around themes relevant to their life/local circumstances rather than class masses.</p> <p>National research into why men do not want to become a priest and development of a national response strategy.</p> <p>Speak up forcefully for asylum seekers regardless of the secular political cost.</p> <p>Restructure formation of seminarians on the role of the priest in parish, creating dynamic uplifting liturgies, family life issues.</p> <p>As part of seminary training, seminarians spend time living with various families for short periods.</p> <p>Better Inservice for overseas priests that has extensive introduction to Australian culture and the role & relationships of the priest in the parish.</p>
8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All catholic primary schools should provide an annual 'retreat' experience for each year level - appropriate to students' age and stage of development - which provides an opportunity to encounter the joy of Christ and to build an intimate relationship with Him. It is hoped this would become an experience that is eagerly anticipated as students progress through their Primary years. 2. Each year group is allocated a Christian value focus for the school year and carries out a community action/s to express this and to establish and experience a servant community. 3. In recognition of the vital role of the school in providing students and their families an experience of Church and leading them to engage with the broader church, each Primary school should have a dedicated pastoral worker from the associated Parish to provide the link between Parish and school - offering pastoral support and a point of contact eg. linking willing parishioners to families without grandparents.
12	<p>Our emerging actions involve greater community connections between parish Church and parish primary schools. This could include:</p> <p>Witness to faith – community: schools and church to be an extension of families.</p> <p>Integrate school with the parish. Build enthusiasm with school staff and promote family groups eg sacramental programs</p> <p>School enrolment packs to include an introduction to the Church</p> <p>Demystify Church as a place- orientation day visit.</p> <p>Altar service party to include families of altar servers.</p> <p>Catholic Primary school to present Winter Appeal/Christmas Appeal during Mass, and conduct school liturgies for current events in the community eg nativity, Mother's Day liturgy</p> <p>Spread the two morning teas for schools to different weekends.</p> <p>Promote Green Team – Stewards of creation. A servant community.</p> <p>Share ideas between different Parishes around Australia - what programs & activities do other parishes do, collect bulletins from other parishes.</p>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of the accumulation of wealth to support the vulnerable. • Mystical thinking – Good works – more organisation – Catholic care • Redistribute the extreme wealth of the church to help the needy. • Female – priests or equivalent • Allow priests to marry so they can be a part of the joyful/hopeful community, not apart from it • Be more welcoming • Female leaders, the church to overcome lack of trust currently prudent. • Duty to the poor and in need – social justice. • Create opportunity for children and the aged to interact and learn from each other under supervision. • Inclusive – welcoming to all (e.g. LGBTQ, refugee, indigenous) • Leadership roles for females. • Transparency – Financial – Abuse • Buildings could be used for temporary accommodation for displaced people. • Redistribution of unused potential wealth (in land and buildings) to the vulnerable or at risk. • Banish cynicism of past poor experiences with sincere actions to progress.
20	<p>Promote and establish initiatives that express a Church that is a servant community especially to marginal persons by promoting eg SVDP, basic Christian communities.</p> <p>As an organisation the Catholic Church in Australia need to promote and champion the rights and needs of the mentally or physically ill in the wider community and use its power to bring about improvement in the care provided by the general community.</p>

31	<p>We do it well on special days like Remembrance Day and Anzac Day where we gathered the community; we should invite all the people in the surrounding community to come join us. Liturgy committee and a renewal program would help” We used to have sharing is during Advent and Lent they help to build community. Ask our other Christian Church’s locally to pray for us for the 2020 Council. Priests from foreign lands need help with the English language. More dialogue with other Christian Churches-knowing more about each other reduces prejudice The Church needs to be relevant and real and to communicate mental wellness. Advocate for change in the Church to make it relevant to today’s society: E.G. allow married priests and female priests Communicate and make real and relevant to the youth of the day Christ message National level the Church needs to have outreach to young adults of today in medium they understand. Real reparation and acknowledgement of guilt is needed for CSA by clergy</p>
7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deal with anxiety and worry in our communities: People are becoming worried about many things. Homilies should stress that if we strive for the kingdom of God: all things will be given to us. Other resources e.g. meditation sessions and literature can reinforce this. Encourage people to trust in God’s providence; that if something is truly needed God will provide it. We shouldn’t let ourselves be consumed with worry. 2. Reach out more to those in need: We collect goods for charity (‘giving trees’, hampers etc.) around Christmas. Perhaps this outreach can be extended through special collections of goods for needy local groups. 3. Encourage gratitude for God’s gifts through the maintenance of ‘Gratitude Diary’, where at the close of each day one notes three things that you were grateful for that day.
5	<p>We need to develop a sense of individual responsibility among all Catholics. We are all ‘priest, prophet and king’. Bishops and priests should increase lay participation in all aspects of church life. E.g. Train lay leaders to run parishes, leaving the priests to focus on providing the Sacraments and authoritative Catholic teaching. Laity and the church hierarchy should see themselves as equally responsible in the day by day challenges in living and reaching out to others as Christians in a world that is rapidly becoming more secular and free thinking. Bishops, priests and laity need training to be willing to step out of their comfort zones in order to take up this responsibility. We must all develop the humility of good servants towards each other and the wider community. All this can be fostered by education, better homilies, clergy finding time to sit as equals with people in serious discussion.</p>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church leaders need to be more authentic representations of the community so they aren’t detached from the people. For example; increased involvement with the community or the opportunity for priests to marry. • Look at the media representation of the church to increase the positive profile of the institution. There are great things going on however we only hear about the negative. • Need to reengage the youth and increase their connectiveness with the church. This could be done by making the language and activities inclusive. Also, views need to be modernised so as the youth’s views aren’t in conflict with the churches.
4	<p>This morning we have focussed on the theme of "A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community". As a group we reflected upon the concept of being grateful for today and not worrying about the future or 'tomorrow's worries'. We reflected upon being content with God's love and not always striving for material possessions. Our overarching outcome/theme was to focus on the experience over education in Catholic Education of the experiences and lives of those less fortunate than us. For example providing staff and students with immersive opportunities and experiences within our local and broader community e.g. soup kitchen volunteering, seeing the outcome of food drives.</p>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a renewal of outreach and readiness to participate in the public life of Australia - renewing the sense of awe at the Spirit at work in the early Church, and how we can be empowered by that - lifting the profile of the Church through marketing campaigns - offering the power of community singing to the wider community - recognising how the Holy Spirit has filled our hearts for loving service - standing by refugees - Catholics who are involved in service should be ready to speak about their work, especially to the Catholic community

28	<p>The Australian Bishops engage with other churches, religious and community groups to address justice issues, and to communicate through modern media a strong public position on the issues, irrespective of whether they are communal, political or religious in nature. Two sub-points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The bishops should speak up strongly for those who have no voice. - The Bishops are seen as 'entitled' and their powers should be reviewed.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offering training seminars, theology courses where lay people can learn more about the faith - spirituality evenings done at parish levels (using skills of priests and experts within dioceses) - not volunteers but through payment from parish budget
8	<p>To become a joyful, hope-filled and servant community, the people of the Central Deanery recommend that we should allow Homilies/Ministry of the Word to be open to all the Faithful (All Baptised), after appropriate formation. This would enable the faithful to have a much fuller, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations. (SC14). This would assist in the aim of reducing clericalism by allowing the participation of the Christian people in their Liturgical celebrations, which is their right and duty by reason of their baptism.</p> <p>It is most important that we increase inclusiveness, of the broken and of those who feel they're not welcome and/or worthy. At all times though we must acknowledge Christ's presence in the Eucharist and support our Priests in their appropriate role</p> <p>Create a strong Catholic Identity- Christ is present in the Mass through the Eucharist; focus on the role of Mary, role of Peter; the Pope; the Holy Spirit all keeping the people together.</p>
8	<p>In all Homilies Priests should concentrate on Catholic values in action. In finishing Homilies there should be a CALL TO ACTION. We must reach out and go out into the deep by changing our worship experience into an intense, joyful experience.</p> <p>We must also take a different approach to teaching Kids. It is considered that, Faith Formation in Schools should be changed as right now, at High School level, for example, it is diluted Another example is of the Catholic schools becoming more corporate due to pressures from Curriculum, government expectations, teacher burnout, and reductions in the spiritual literacy of teachers. More focus required on Christian values, not Corporate values.</p> <p>It is also important in Sacramental programs that Parents should always be involved and it is recommended that ALPHA for adults/parents be provided prior to Sacramental programs</p> <p>God is calling us to focus on the membership of the Church-remind the Australian community of the healing power of the Eucharist-tu</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be of genuine service and support to the most vulnerable in our community through appropriate agencies as exemplified by our St Vincent de Paul Conference and all the social justice and outreach agencies. • Support, and participate in the planning of the Parish Inter-generational Outreach projects for 2020. • Continue in the education of social, economic, political and justice issues with the aim to live up to the Parish's own commitment to being a Dementia Aware and Friendly Parish. • Provide, encourage and motivate greater involvement in pastoral visitation to the ill and home-bound. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit and review all Parish policies and programmes vis-à-vis the findings of the Royal Commission into aging. • Ongoing development and education of servant leadership in all organizational structures and governance. • Establish and build links with local agencies and other bodies to help meet the needs of the community. • A greater involvement in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue.

9	<p>1 Trust local Church to apply principles that suit the local situation and urge Priests to use options available.</p> <p>2 Bring back sodalities of Holy Name, Sacred Heart etc</p> <p>3 Create an atmosphere of fellowship by adjusting the introduction to the breaking of the bread with community-building rituals.</p> <p>4 Create forums for Bishops, Priests and Laity to listen to each other.</p> <p>5 Provide better support for bishops, Priests and laity.</p> <p>6 Adjust the Liturgy of the Word to be interactive. The laity also have the Spirit and can share their wisdom with each other.</p> <p>7 Emphasize JOY in seminary training.</p> <p>8 International Dinners help to create community in Parishes as do name tags at cuppas after Mass.</p> <p>9 A lottery for partnering so that people will tcontact a different person each month.</p> <p>10 Organize schemes to welcome to the Parish, the Eucharist and to know who is in need, including youth</p> <p>11Encourage home groups, eg Bible, to facilitate sharing</p> <p>12 Provide helpful literature at the back of Church.</p> <p>13 Smile</p>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get back to the Gospels • ordain women • women as deacons • women in greater leadership roles • optional celibacy • laypeople to take on more active roles • our current leaders to listen and to be open to change.
8	<p>Engage young people through church-based national social media programs.</p> <p>Promote youth groups.</p>
20	<p>The key focus of the local church is the Eucharist celebration. Whilst this is of great importance to Catholics, a consequence is that the local church has become inward looking. For the church as we know it to become a part of the broader Christian community it requires leadership and commitment from the Bishops of Australia to change the culture where action becomes as important as devotion.</p> <p>Parishes need to develop a sense of encouragement so that the laity feel empowered to participate in parish group activities and to look to ways that they can involve other Christian communities.</p> <p>The group felt a need for groups such as Bible Study Groups and the promotion of courses for women within the Diocese.</p> <p>Stronger links to the St. Vincent de Paul charity at local parish level.</p> <p>Encourage parish-led charitable events at the local community</p>
2	<p>Slavery is a grave breach of human rights yet 40.3 million people are estimated to be enslaved today. The high number of impoverished and displaced people on the Earth provides a large pool for trafficking making human life cheap. It costs less to replace enslaved people on a regular basis rather than to sustain them in a manner that keeps them healthy.</p> <p>The Sydney Archdiocese seeks to combat slavery through education and by identifying products and services that are produced by properly employed people, but it remains optional for Catholic parishes/communities throughout Australia to choose slave free purchasing. The catechism of the Catholic Church condemns slavery (para 2414) and there is strong biblical support for the Australian Catholic Church to buy slave free, including Jesus in Mt 25: "whatever you do to the least of my family you do to me."All Catholic parishes/communities need to commit to slave-free supply chains AND opt into the Federal Government anti-slavery legislation.</p>
10	<p>Procedures & practises are required in the institutional church that equip encourage and support individuals in parish communities to spread attributes of joy & hope to friends & neighbours in their workplace, sporting & leisure groups. Measures such as</p> <p>Offer diocesan resources (written and in person) to parishes to enable them build and sustain small groups with the aim to</p> <p>increase the level of faith understanding and formation</p> <p>confidently discuss the joy & hope we derive from our faith when opportunity arises in conversation with others</p> <p>build wider friendship circles within the parish</p> <p>Improved current communication and public relations to the general public eg</p> <p>more good news stories in the general press of achievements of Catholics</p> <p>consider placing the diocesan Magazine for sale in News Agents and Supermarkets</p> <p>pictures and stories of young people going to international gatherings put out to local press.</p> <p>Making the Mass and other church liturgies more accessible and meaningful parti</p>

35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a contemporary, easy to understand version of the lectionary with inclusive language. • Bring back the third rite of reconciliation; it allows people to come back to the church. • Create opportunities for healing acceptance and inclusiveness for all who have been hurt. • Create opportunities for healing listening forgiving. • Be a Church that is inclusive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect and understand difference. • Include those discriminated against and recognise diversity among people, and their ideas. • Include divorced and remarried people. • Recognise homosexual people. • Stand up for refugees Develop a policy to address loneliness nationally. (Mental illness can relate to loneliness.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a national program to help parishes engage with non-practising Catholics.
13	<p>We feel that people have now become so distant from the Church they feel uncomfortable and alienated. People feel uneasy and even scared to enter Church buildings which is a barrier to their further engagement with the teachings of Jesus.</p> <p>We suggest that we develop programs in local parishes that are of direct relevance and compelling interest to the wider community. These programs can be on a range of topics, not necessarily religious topics. Special thought could be given to things that may be of interest to younger people (e.g. tutoring and study programs). The idea is to attract people into the church buildings so that they become familiar with the Catholic premises: the look and the feel, the culture. Once they are comfortable and no longer see it as a foreign place then they are more likely to venture back into the Catholic spaces to see what else the Church may be offering.</p>
13	<p>Redefine our faith enrichment type activities to broaden what these may mean so that it can target a wider range of interests of the parish community. Art classes, yoga meditation; these types of activities may also be added to faith enrichment and therefore may start addressing some of the broader needs and interests of the parishioners.</p>
13	<p>Train and inspire our teachers (and indeed all Catholics) to be living examples to students and to be able to explain the fundamentals of their faith in ways that are logical and believable. Provide them with straightforward language that avoids standard Catholic terms that have become foreign and meaningless, or even trite to many young people in modern Australia. We need new phrases, new explanations, new justifications, new arguments. Even the term 'youth' (as in youth group) is laden with connotations that disenfranchises many young Australian right from the start. Can the church help us articulate difficult concepts using straightforward modern language without jargon, calling on examples from contemporary Australia. This is an extremely difficult task because those of us on the inside are so steeped in the language and culture it's impossible for us to know how alienating our language can be to those on the outside.</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *That the Church does not put up barriers for people who are divorced and want to participate in the Mass. Annulment is not always the correct way to allow people to participate in the Church. There should be a discernment process. You can not void a marriage. *That priests who have left active ministry be invited back o administer Sacraments, especially Anointing and Baptism. *That our Bishops are more visible and in touch with lay people. *That it starts with EACH ONE OF US: To act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God. To promote good works, respect for others, a sense of healing in acts of Faith, Hope and Love. * To have a National Sorry Day to the Victims of Abuse.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *That a national program of RE be introduced in all schools so that all students are taught the same. *That RE in Catholic schools is given the same importance as the 3 Rs. *The Church to engage more and more with our teenage students. Really listen to what they say and think. Encourage dialogue. *Dialogue must be real. Need to listen with humility and love.

8	<p>Through a process of consultation, establish National/Diocesan guidelines, to encourage greater involvement of the laity in parish leadership and ministry, bringing hope and joy to all through encounter with God and each other. Develop structures to improve parish connections and enable sharing.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide guidelines and resources (especially formation) for <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A shared parish decision making approach which acknowledges the respective roles of parish priest and lay leadership. ii. Structured "Outreach", "Faith Development" and "Welcoming" programs 2. Some members of the PPC to be elected by the parishioners - transparent- responding to parishioners needs (survey) and undergoing formation for service. 3. Set up a National/Diocesan Communication Committee to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Proclaim good news stories II. Explore and present successful parish initiatives III. Advertise and/or develop on-line resources 4. Encourage priests to use technology to accompany homilies- seminary formation-ongoing
20	<p>A great need for renewal. It is imperative that we truly know our Lord Jesus Christ and follow him unconditionally. Faith formation through prayer groups/ good liturgical music/ parishioners involvement in parish activities/ involvement of and for youth.</p> <p>Emphasis on Scripture. Priests need to be qualified to 'break open the Word'/ make it relevant. Sunday 'homily' crucial.</p> <p>The Role of women must be enhanced in the gathered church/ committed women with strong faith foundations who can play a crucial role in the lives of men and women.</p> <p>The appointment of more Deacons, male and female. Attributes that women can bring to the matrix of the Church need to be recognized. A better balance needed in the 'Patriarchal' Church.</p> <p>Catholic Church authorities must become more visible in the social and political world and encourage people to 'stand up and be counted' protesting against changes that harm our faith and our society.</p>
9	<p>only happens if we are inclusive.</p> <p>discard the theology/laws that exclude people.</p> <p>Make church communities/schools etc places where we meet God.</p> <p>have uplifting music, human and meaningful liturgies.</p>
3	<p>As an RCIA coordinator I have been blessed to witness the true joy experienced by individuals and the parish community when people are baptised or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.</p> <p>I believe the source of this joy and hope is a result of having an RCIA program that is faithful to the teachings of the Church, the Sacraments and to Sacred Scripture. I've heard of RCIA programs at other parishes that are not faithful to the teachings of the Church. But to love Christ you have to love His Church.</p> <p>After hearing one RCIA sponsor's story I could see that diluting the Faith by disregarding "difficult" truths actually leads to ignorance of how to live joy and hope amidst life's sufferings.</p> <p>The self-giving of the RCIA team and those participating in the program through their dedication, time and effort has been a real example in the parish community of Christ's own faithfulness to His Church which He lived and died for and sustains throughout history.</p>
11	<p>Participants felt that God asks us to trust and have faith in Him and to mature as per his divine plan and He will attend to all our needs. To inherit eternal life Jesus asks us to keep the commandments. Jesus alerts us that just as in His time on earth, He is not accepted. God allows the Holy Spirit within us to use our Godly gifts and talents. Unless we are truly willing and open we will not see what God is revealing to us. The concrete Actions at Parish level were: Have children's mass on Sundays, have activity once a month, monthly discussion groups of issues we become aware of, Invite families to write their petitions and place in a basket at front of the altar, follow-up visits to families whose children have received Holy Communion or been baptised, have Open Day – Qs & As for people</p> <p>At Diocese level: Mass for volunteers once a month, have week-end Retreats, remind Catholics who they are via Youtube videos, podcasts, radio snippets, T.V.</p>

27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A need for genuine acknowledgement of the hurt of some people in our community. • A need to also recognise the great good that the church has done in our community through education. • A greater presence of women in the church and truly 'at the table' • Selection for priesthood needs to be widened to include married and female clergy. • Removal of barriers to allow the church to be truly inclusive and welcoming to all in the community. • A recognition that without change for many the face of the church is our schools • A greater presence of the church within our schools • A greater engagement of our youth in the church through schools and community • A removal of liturgical barriers in the formatting of the mass to allow it to be genuine and joy-filled • Greater outreach to youth to engage them in the processes that will shape their church • More plenary councils to give a greater sense of ownership of the direction that the church is taking in a continual and ever evolving answer to
30	<p>A Christ-centred Church which is joyful, hope-filled and serving has its greatest model in Mary. Her answer: "I am the handmaid of the Lord" should be our answer. She is centred on Christ and by doing the Father's will as he did and encouraging others to "do whatever he tells you" we will find true joy in our lives and a way to witness to and serve others.</p> <p>In a Church which is plagued by challenges on all fields, faith in God's providence as Mary had will give us hope and strength to reach out to offer wholehearted service to our Church and community.</p> <p>When we invite Mary into our lives as our educator and guide, we will be led to Christ and the heavenly Father – this is her God-given task. By striving to live the essence of a prayer, written in the Dachau Concentration Camp by the founder of Schoenstatt, we will become the Christ-centred Church needed today:</p> <p>Mary, let us walk like you through life Let us mirror you forever... Walk in us through our world Make it ready for the Lord.</p>
4	<p>* Prioritise having Masses or ecumenical prayer services in times of crisis or grave need for people to come together, pray and support one another e.g. at the cathedral of a diocese during bush fires or drought.</p> <p>* That Catholic parishes in Australia find ways of encouraging fellowship beyond attendance at Sunday Masses and are assisted in that process by sharing useful ideas and resources.</p> <p>* That encouragement be given to activities and groups for families and young people to engage in social and faith formation activities.</p>
60	<p>Joyfully serving others Listening and helping those in need e.g. lonely, old, sick Celebrate people in our community and welcome new people Share thoughts and be willing to help out in any way possible Embrace change and allow the spirit to lead us Make help available for parishioners in need Before Mass welcome new people Faith events, parish days, celebrations Ecumenical Events Parish website and events calendar Be more supportive through active promotion of organisations assisting mentally challenged and marginalised Be more supportive of marginalised and excluded Catholics e.g. divorced, recovering alcoholics and drug addicts including those who are quietly on the edge. Form groups from our parish to participate in outreach together Focus on church celebrations and feast days Outreach to our own parishioners/community with a social inclusion focus Greater awareness of social justice impacts in the local community Be more hospitable Someone to be there when you need them</p>

4	<p>National Actions: Get youth involved through a national questionnaire that asks students in secondary and tertiary institutions about how the church may better respond to their needs in order to help them practice living their faith more fully. Set up discussion groups with youth about their needs and hopes for the church in today's context. Drive to have more practicing Catholic teachers teaching in Catholic Schools. Development of a national R.E curriculum for both Primary and Secondary schools. Parent faith formation to be delivered in parishes nation-wide. Update liturgy to get rid of archaic language. Modernize prayers of the mass. Select Old and New Testament readings that are relevant, simplified, made more audience friendly and make the lessons clearer. i.e how do these lessons apply in our lives today.</p> <p>Local Actions: Re-establish "I Thirst" program for 18-25-year old's - Spirituality in the pub. Host more social events for secondary school students.</p>
6	<p>Australian Bishops must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote programs such as Exodus 90 and Nineveh 90 to develop fellowship between parishioners - Promote prayer chains in each parish to build communication within a nurturing community. - Encourage social activities around major Feast Days -Encourage catholic communities which meet regularly to pray and to support each other
100	<p>Support the work of church service organisations such as Saint Vincent DePaul, Caritas and other charities working with people in need in Australia and overseas.</p> <p>Encourage a ministry of service to those who are sick and in need in our parish.</p> <p>Defend human rights of Indigenous peoples, refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>Protect the dignity of all life from conception to death.</p> <p>Promote ethical stewardship of all of our Earth's resources and work to alleviate the impacts of climate change.</p>
2	<p>National:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Modernise masses to be attractive to our young people without losing the faith filled fundamentals in place. ie "Hot Gospel" (modern Evangelical churches), but in a catholic environment. Learn/use lessons from "International Youth" global gatherings organized and sponsored by our Pope. 2.Better explanation of structure, content and spiritual meaning of the mass in simple but attractive and interesting terms for our primary school kids.(Adult/junior education) 3.Must relate to newcomers in a very constructive and helpful way. That church is a good place to be, friendly welcoming people. <p>Local:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Illustration of the Lord, (like a body) and communicate where all the different parts of the "Body of Christ" can participate or be involved in parish life, either speaking, serving in the kitchen etc: 2.gap between 40-50yo. Many of our children are of long standing parishioners now, if at all, can we reconnect with them. 3.Contact with families for Sacraments are critical

11	<p>National:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Church to be more present in media ie State and National newspapers, multi- media, websites with links; PROCLAIMING THE GOOD WORK. 2.Education – How is what we do important to the Catholic Church? ie Snippets of explanations on the elements of mass communicated during mass; understanding the symbols during mass; use lay terms. Increase faith education to the adults. 3.National collection for services – ie police, fire, ambulance; disaster relief. “Being a witness to society” <p>Local:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Greeting each other before mass; holding hands for the Our Father; recognising special events ie birthdays, wedding anniversaries, make Priest part of our family. 2.Focus on Families and Children participation and involvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - kids do readings; - youth mass; - young people activities ie BBQ after mass; social activities. 3.Parish Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify people who require visitations; start with those from within church
3	<p>National:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Promote Good News Stories - Youth works; testimonies; missionary; charity group work. Support all leaders who dedicate their lives and are disheartened by Royal Commission and media articles. Have guest speakers who can witness their faith in action. 2.Remember that the laity/ people are The Church. Communion services run by laity when priests are unavailable. More paid pastoral workers, deacons, acolytes regardless of gender in parishes. 3.Education is needed to promote the power of prayer; good works; Mass; Eucharist is body of Christ; the need to worship in a faith community and the guidelines/traditions of the Catholic Church. <p>Local</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Platforms to enable the telling of good news stories and personal testimonies. Have guest speakers who give witness to a faith-filled relationship with God. 2.Promote the power of prayer; re-establish small groups ie Cells; The Prism and 1/4 newsletters. 3.Outreach to elderly and families whose children do the sacraments.
8	<p>National:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform the rest of the world how much the Catholic Church does <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aged Care - Hospitals - St Vinnies 2. Priests - Review whether a Seminary is the best option. 3. We need to recognise what females do in the Church. The Church would be nowhere without women. Make known what they could aspire to in the Church. <p>Local:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name Tags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve communication. - bring down the barrier. - so we can get to know each other. 2. Christmas Mass and Carol Service (Yinnar outdoor) - reaching out to the local and school community. 3. 1:1 visiting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are so many people in our community requiring support. - Develop a team of Parishioners to go and visit those in need. - (Carers require visitors also).

5	<p>A Christ-centred Church will have leaders who can motivate the people to be joyful and welcoming to the stranger, both within and outside of the Church community.</p> <p>A Christ-centred Church will see Jesus in everyone, be it the educated, the poor, the battered and bruised, the little children or the person in the pew next to you.</p> <p>We can be a hope-filled community if we build on the opportunities nurtured by World Youth Day, Diocesan Assemblies and Plenary Councils. Hope and purpose is founded in Jesus.</p> <p>As a servant community we must be the initiators of friendship, charity, compassion, and love so as to create a sense of belonging to our neighbours.</p> <p>When we are a 'neighbour' focused community we will begin a transformation from a maintenance based Church to a missionary Church.</p> <p>Luke 10:27 is central to this theme: "You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind: and your neighbour as yourself"</p>
7	<p>National:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church to make Big Statements - be advocate in regard to care for elderly/disabled/oppressed/marginalised/mentally ill in our society. 2. Tell Good News Stories to give us hope and inspiration - those of charity groups/religious orders/older people etc. 3. Church to provide and finance facilities in regional areas - homes/care for elderly and young disabled; Fund Long term mentoring Skills programs for older generation to share with younger generations; Catholic schools involved with elderly within community. <p>Local:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish to adapt to what is happening in our local community - assist elderly/overseas students/general community's issues. Employ a Publicity Officer to utilise media platforms to communicate local issues and parish stories/news. 2. Liturgy needs to be more relevant to our community - through prayers 3. Have an Induction process for new religious/parish workers - to provide history, culture and dynamics of parish. Parishioners need to make Clergy feel welcome.
12	<p>National:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Together with other local churches, invite community members to meet for "communal prayer", via txt or email links, eg Coming together to pray for the NZ Volcano Eruption 2. More involvement with/by our parish leaders 3. More ecumenical activities <p>Local:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We made a positive decision to make a Facebook page, no name as yet, to provide Christian messages 2. Following up parents and children who come through our school and church connected with the Sacramental programs. 3. Have a non-Catholic social gathering a couple of times a year
10	<p>Signs of how our Church might become more "joyful, hope-filled and servant" were discerned in our own and other parishes. Factors contributing to this vitality were perceived to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement by our priests for lay-leadership in all areas of parish life • The development of new lay-led areas of community service – e.g. care for the environment in the spirit of Laudato Sí, and participation in movements for justice for refugees. • The development of ties to Church communities in developing areas – e.g. the Philippines. <p>Extrapolating from our experience, we urge the Council to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New models of Church leadership, to include especially lay women, based on pastoral success stories from our parishes. • New priorities in Church mission, to include welcome to, and involvement for those presently alienated from or at the margins of Church life, including – victims of, or those disgusted by sexual abuse; Aboriginal Australians; dropouts among alumni of Catholic education.

