



**Catholic Diocese of Sale**



## **Plenary Council 2020**

**Raw responses collected from 400 participants  
at the  
Regional Listening and Dialogue Sessions with Bishop Patrick O'Regan  
held at  
Drouin 24 October 2018  
Morwell 25 October 2018  
Berwick 30 October 2018  
Leongatha 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018  
Sale 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

*These responses are grouped under several headings for ease of reading.*

Liturgy  
Mission  
Church Teachings  
Pastoral Care  
Vocation  
Communication  
Leadership  
Catholic Education  
Faith Formation

Bishop Pat and the Diocesan *Gaudium et Spes* Plenary 2020 team wish to share these responses with the Diocesan community so that people can read what they and others around the Diocese have been saying about the Church. Please make these responses available to your parish and school communities. We will also be posting these on the Diocesan website soon.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kind regards

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**Raw Responses from Participants  
at the Regional Listening and Dialogue Sessions  
with Bishop Patrick O'Regan**

(from Regional Gatherings at Drouin, Morwell, Berwick, Leongatha, Sale)

## **LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS**

Updated music at mass.

To be open to new ideas especially music ministry.

Affirm Eucharist- nourishment for the weak, needy, imperfect should not exclude from Eucharist.

Third rite reconciliation to allow easy of access language using old world style.

Families don't see relevance of going to Mass.

Fire and brimstone in pulpit.

Make sermons more fun.

Embrace the youth through music ministry.

Introduce some more uplifting modern music our youth can connect to.

Parish priest to be involved in the process.

Reality of baptism for community commitment and faith.

Change the mass celebration.

To be compassionate and tolerant to those divorced and finding way to include them in the sacraments of the church.

Improvement in the way we contact our services to attract the young people.

When in union with other churches so why can't we all receive the Holy Communion?

More general confessions.

How to accept the divorced into the sacramental life of the church?

Mass to be more vibrant.

Appreciate the sacramental aspect of our Faith, Mass and Ritual.

Understand the difference between a political and a sacramental church.

We need to assess the treatment of divorced Catholics especially regarding the sacraments.

How do we invite people when we are so exclusive with communion?

There are so many divorced and remarried or married and divorced why not consider their being allowed to receive Holy Communion? Perhaps liturgical welcome back.

Reception of communion should all be welcomed?

Concerned about church non-attendance.

As very few people attend reconciliation rite one and rite two can we consider third rite again which was very popular?

Ask those who left the church why?

Ask those who no longer come for Mass why?

Ask the young why they are not interested?

The camel can't see its own hump.

Participation in liturgy.

Can everyone receive all the seven Sacraments?

A possibility if all sacraments are put in the life of church it is a possibility look at everything as a sacrament.

The canon law and church teaching says priests are not married. We don't need to be ordained to minister.

Don't water down sacrament of our faith.

Mass celebration more engaging priests, parents, youth and community.

A possibility of receiving all seven sacraments.

Consider mass variation for development for faith.

Youth mass and music suitable for them.

Liturgical changes and improvement, hymns, reverence.

Better access of Latin mass.

Simplify the bible readings for better understanding.

Allow reconciliation of the 3rd rite advent and lent at our gatherings.

Improvement in liturgical celebrations making them more lively.

To make use of the sacraments and resources the church has.

Relevant language use for better understanding.

Protect and preserve marriage and family life.

Liturgy of the church and renewal.

Allow sacraments to be open for all.

Divorce no sacraments.

Suicide no sacraments.

Homosexuality?? No sacraments.

Youth participation.

Parish priests need to be stricter at mass. Show the parishioners to have respect and reverence at mass...no talking.

Go back to the traditional hymns.

Put more bible verses into song for kids to learn.

Turn back to God, prayer, fasting, sacrifice, regular confession, love and honour God, and love each other.

How do we improve mass to encourage children/families to be involved?

We have to pray to bring young people to come back to church.

Connect with God I believe one day turning point will come spiritual, encourage youth and give them opportunity, group gathering with youth.

Youth feel discomfort from church services.

Music not valued enough, sacred and inclusion.

The third rite of reconciliation to be celebrated especially before Christmas and Easter.

Be inclusive of all especially gay community, divorced couples' annulment process is very painful.

Locally order the sacraments children baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

Reconciliation to be available.

That our Sunday liturgies more appealing to our youth.

That the church be more inclusive to those who are divorced.

Introduction of bible discussions.

Please slow down prayer- don't read/ speed read. Pray.

Different music not just hymns during mass.

Youth or children servers and activities.

Promote and facilitate full, conscious and active participation in mission of the church, as well as at mass.

Encourage participation.

Blessed sacrament in Homes.

Vibrancy and liveliness through music and praise and worship like world youth days.

To renew and unite as a Christian church.

We need to act.

To be inclusive.

We need to put prayer before all.

No fault marriage, failure and remarriage.

Third reconciliation possibility of bringing it back.

Reflections with orthodox rites.

Youth ministry to be intensified.

Listen to young people and how they see God and relevance of Church to them.

Catholic kids need to find a place that allows them to be accepted and to lead.

We need to accept and listen to the young people.

We need to get rid of the archaic language and complex rituals to allow them entry in the church.

Modernise, relevance and connect.

To be welcoming especial to the divorced, same sex partners.

To discover a way to accept and celebrate diversity.

To develop and encourage specifically Australian Christianity.

## **MISSION**

To unite and support each other to strive to be more kind and love.

Evangelization and demonstrate the attractiveness of the church to attract others.

Gospel formation.

The mission of the church.

Look for the signs to plant the seeds.

Be free to express what we believe and to be proud of who we are.

Be proactive.

Be part of building the church.

Facilitate change and renewing of faith.

To be more open about our faith share it, live it, show it.

The holy spirit is leading us to hope in the future.

Living the message of the gospel.

People are hungry for spirituality and are getting it on SBN (Television).

Complexity of modern life.

Too many rules.

Single parents

Cultural sharing.

Social justice.

Find new ways of evangelisation.  
Evangelise through our actions not what we say.  
Combined effort in ministry men and women.  
The youth.  
Evangelisation.  
Evangelisation to next generation.  
Revitalisation for a contemporary society.  
How do we involve single parents and divorced through catholic schools one option we need to hear them?  
Youth ministry.  
Evangelisation and ecumenism.  
Having bible studies people don't know, family, sex etc.  
Talk about the Holy Spirit more church lost its focus.  
Evangelisation go out.  
Spread the word of God without fear.  
Holiness.  
More reverence.  
Welcoming to all inclusive.  
Don't change but engage.  
Youth programs and connection to be intensified.  
Awareness of secularism.  
How do we get our families back to church?  
Ways of bringing the families to church.  
We engage with the youth and pray God to open way for them.  
One day turning point will come.  
To be a missionary community and a prayerful community.  
To rediscover our passion and enthusiasm for our faith and answer the call to have personal relationship with God whilst reaching out in faith, love and joy to all others to be accepting of diversity and more inclusive.  
The church should stand together in their faith to profess it in public.  
How do we reconcile without division in Church?  
Need to connect families to the church.  
Spirituality has been lost.  
Not only act as Christians but have people see that we act as Christians and do what Christ would have us do.  
Dialogue with other faiths.  
St Vincent encouraging with the help they give.  
We must provide formation to our community spiritual, human, moral, intellectual for the whole person.

## **CHURCH TEACHING**

Acceptance regarding of life choices sexuality, marriage or poverty.  
A lot of ignorant parishioners.

More formation needed for all parishioners to know the Catholic faith and the church teachings.

Get back to living the gospel values.

What is the true role of catholic education system? Not a private education but a shared catholic journey.

Gay marriage.

Discussion about how the church has become culturally irrelevant.

Many lack a sense what is being spoken about.

To show that the church is bigger than a few individuals & that God offers forgiveness to all.

To live an honest, moral, ethical Christian life. Authentic.

Get back to living the gospel values.

Stop being politically correct because it is limiting.

Crisis of faith leads to suicide, family violence, depression etc.

We need formation in the faith for everyone.

Parents don't know how to pass faith on the young.

We have faith level of children rather than adults.

Need to know the bible, Catholics don't know it.

Homosexuality and the church.

We are very consumerist and less spirituality.

Hope to start the process to find the flame of faith.

Need to nurture that flame.

Understand the difference between sacramental vs political church.

Understand that mass is a ritual important to us humans.

The church is too dogmatic- rules has overtaken the message of love and service.

Catholic formation for all.

Need to access to spirituality to deepen relationship with God.

Look for and develop opportunities to experience prayer and faith spirituality.

Build relationship with Jesus the Christ.

Faith in the changing world.

Look for biblical truth in our tradition and doctrines for the foundation.

Introduction of Bible study in group situations.

Crisis of faith.

Speak out on moral and social issues.

Dealing with the changing society.

Politics and secular law influences Catholics and especially young people and lapsed Catholics.

The pope is showing openness and transparency e.g. confessions, leadership explain detail to our critics and Catholics.

Revitalisation needed seems archaic to many even Catholics.

Changed our mind about Halloween used to send them away but now reach out with frogs – fully rely on God.

Basics how do we get back to smaller groups?

Changing to become a Catholic I have noticed they are closed society – how do we change the views of others looking at us as a faith?

Lots of good atheists how do we say we are good because of Jesus?

Go back to basics.

Open to possibilities – there is no master plan step by step.

Get back to the basics with today's lack of truth.

Respect the past we have wonder tradition.

We need to take a hard look at ourselves as the Church and Take that look from the outside in not from inside out.

Getting the young to profess their faith again.

We need to be open to the future.

Adapt to the next generation.

How do we make relevant for the young?

To understand catholic history.

Reorganising opening up the church to all.

How do we become more creative?

A renewal of faith an awakening.

Discipline: Canon law needs to be changed to accommodate society changes and family values in this day and age.

Call for understanding the doctrine of the Catholic Church.

Passing on our faith in a relevant way to our youth.

We need to clearly define and be catholic in all we do and say.

We need to get back to basics so we know our faith and teach our children.

Future of Catholic Church is in the younger generation. What changes need to be made to engage the younger generation?

What will the church do to ensure the transmission of our catholic faith? Absolute truths.

Will the Catholic Church have members who know their faith and are proud to belong to it?

Get back to the basics, the Ten Commandments.

Children to learn rosary (the Hail Mary and our Father).

Teach the faith well allow people to know the truth and the gift of catholic faith.

How to keep the 10 commandments?

Birth control.

Some people feel judged because of their sexual orientation this may lead to suicide.

Change our mindset about our faith.

To be socially engaged.

Homelessness.

Psychosocial issues.

Accepting of homosexuality/ fringes.

Are the rigid rules e.g. Sunday mass attendance, contraception, divorce causing people to unable to be Catholic?

Sunday is a holiday of obligation please remind us.

Church is becoming secularised not spiritual.

Feel catholic education has let parents down not valuing parent's knowledge.

Look at changing the legislation to protect our youth and change the current enslaving negative culture.

Firm stand regarding moral issues.

Family stand regarding moral needs.

Firm values, sexuality.

Same sex marriages.

Abortion.

To decide which way the church must go with homosexuality, child molestation, and how to deal with these.

Scripture and tradition to be savoured.

To clarify, solidify the catholic Church's position, stance, understanding of current issues.

In depth teachings of the catholic church and faith.

Clear teaching on marriage and family.

Dignity of human person end of life, abortion, violence and abuse.

Basic catholic teaching in the primary and secondary schools, give our youth direction so that they carry through the value for life.

Investing more in the youth catholic teaching.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Clergy must visit the sick and elderly in their homes.

To be able to have a priest when necessary and no one is available at all times.

To be kind to each other "tolerant".

Encourage youth with better music.

To help our fellow person, listen, assist and not discriminate.

Include our youth and embrace them.

To be helpful in the church with your talents.

Help our youth to see through the light of God, and bring them back to our church.

Be inclusive and patient with all people.

That men and women will be able to share the ministry of the word i.e. accountability.

Increase inclusion and reduce exclusion from the church.

Not converting but understanding, correcting but healing.

Each person is the church not the building.

Fear of God helps you to stay on the straight and narrow path.

We lack discipline and respect for others.

Be proud of the church.

Seeing Jesus in every person.

Live the Gospel despite the pain of abuse.

Love unlovable people.

To respect each other without judgement.

Maybe the Lavalla choir to sing at different parishes occasionally.

Encouraging sense of belonging.

To be a better person, to forgive, to tell my children about Jesus and get them to church, Getting my kids to church it's so hard. We are called to love but sometimes I become angry that they won't go.

To know our identity that of being good and genuine Catholics.

We need to look into the treatment of the divorced people. Not shutting people out or pointing the finger.



Openness and welcoming to all.  
Making it easy for divorced Catholics to come back to church. And people who are longing for communion and sacraments.  
Bringing back the youth in the church, welcoming them, visiting them and creating atmosphere for the such as appealing music for them.  
Bring people into a caring and loving community.  
Relevance of the church in today's context.  
Priests to visit and encourage young families.  
Pray together and discern God's will.  
Be open to change especially to the young.  
To live our lives as God has asked us to not as the secular world asks.  
Not to water down the church teachings to make us more acceptable to society.  
For the church to be more embracing.  
Catholics have lapsed for a variety of reasons. How do we get them back?  
Address of recent sexual abuse.  
Appreciation of other cultures and their richness.  
Demographics of the parishes have changed considerably in the past years – more Asian, African communities whose aspirations needs and cultural require an appreciation of the source.  
Visiting the young and bringing them back.  
To reach out to the homeless.  
Revive the faith.  
To accept the marginalised.  
Be inclusive.  
Give more of self.  
Church to support poverty elimination.  
Clean the image of the church.  
Make the good work known.  
Keep the faith.  
Get back to what Jesus taught us.  
Be part of our society not so far removed as we are now.  
Better power structures in the church.  
To be compassionate and non-judgemental.  
To listen to the spirit.  
To be more generous in sharing time with those in need, physical and emotional.  
To open my heart to change and acceptance of others e.g. gay community.  
To find ways to bring families back to the church.  
To be more open to sharing my faith with others and be more open minded to the views of others.  
Togetherness.  
More joy to the church.  
Youth back to church.  
Recognise our own attitudes and prejudices that affect our judgement and involvement with others.

Identify how and why people are made to feel excluded from our church community.  
Support opportunities for our youth.  
To show compassion more freely: reach out to those in need.  
To reach out to others in our community to appreciate their circumstances and hopes and how God is present in their lives.  
To build and contribute to awareness of our environment and God's creative plan for our world and the kingdom of God.  
Acceptance, openness and positive approach.  
Why can't families dialogue about faith issues?  
Why are there so many families fragmented?  
How lay people involvement in the church?  
What were you thinking in sexual child abuse?  
So much effort and energy into building parishes; it will have to be done again only better.  
Political correctness gone mad.  
Knowing our faith is better and being able to explain it confidently, respectfully, and passionately to others.  
I would like to bring my children and grandchildren to church with me.  
I would like to see a more joyful church.  
To talk more about my church with everyone and invite them with joy.  
Treat other Christians as equal with us.  
Reject the world of materialism and self-promotion.  
Accept that others are different.  
Reach out to those less fortunate both at home and overseas.  
Assist children and families find opportunity.  
Gather with other churches, services for social justice.  
Prayer in the home.  
Create welcoming group in the church for new comers.  
How to care for the migrants.  
More about people and less rules.  
Unity in the church.  
Youth ministry to be developed in the parishes.  
Strong faith formation in our parishes, and schools, for parents, teachers and children.  
Our catholic community needs to be more vocal i.e. the asylum seekers.  
Family we have home, school and community how can we act in this manner?  
There is much individualism how do we help people belong and feel connected?  
Respect in home (or lack thereof).  
Openness of Church good or bad.  
Community building.  
Live Jesus values of the gospel.  
Lost sheep – bring them back to the flock, greater acceptance. Show them God's love.  
How do we reach out to others?  
Putting Jesus at the centre of everything, love of Jesus and belief.  
We have opened up more as a church rather than year ago. We might have become arrogant.

Maybe we have become timid in sharing our faith.  
As a taxi driver people are open to prayer.  
Families need to have some guidance in how to parent,  
If we meet a person at their need e.g. St Vinnies they try to use Jesus/prayer as a starting point.  
How do we reach out to those who are no longer deeply moved by the faith?  
Be joyous.  
We should be trying to spread the faith which Jesus gave.  
To stand strong and be faithful.  
Spend 10 minute a day asking God who we are?  
Speak to our children and grandchildren.  
Family support.  
Multicultural Christianity and faith.  
For the church to become more inclusive and acceptable of all diversity.  
Renewal.  
How can we love one another as brothers and sisters?  
Embrace the church.  
Mental health.  
Living church, we remain in the dark ages.  
The church should be all-inclusive divorcees and gay people.  
To get all Catholic, practising and non-practising together as one.  
To be more open to all people.  
Generation inclusion.  
To become more cohesive and open to the modern community.  
To be more accepting of other people's beliefs.  
Make people feel welcome.  
The church is more genuine in being "like Jesus", live a life of love, forgiveness, inclusion.  
The Australian church should be one that is "of the world" genuinely connected to our environment and its stewardship.  
God would like us to be proud to be catholic and Christian and to know our faith.  
What other religions are successful in engaging their youth? What can we learn from these other religions to help us engage our catholic youth?  
Consider the marginalised inclusion of all people.  
Teaching by example.  
Satan is tempting youth.  
How can the church become a moral compass for society?  
Listen to his word in the gospels, follow his example.  
Love your friend as you love yourself.  
Look to the clergy for direction.  
I believe God want us to be more serious about our faith- less casual than we are at present.  
I think God is asking us to be quiet and listen to accept people who are from different backgrounds and have thoughts that are totally different to our own.  
Be more cohesive and accepting.  
To be a caring, friendly and responsible community.

God is asking us to reflect entirely about how we can become a more inclusive welcoming community where women's voices are heard and respected, young people are encouraged and fully participate.

Political correctness being taken to extreme.

Parenting has changed.

Perhaps the church has held back on telling the bad news.

Inviting and welcoming.

A need to recognise God's primary, benevolence and love for us. He would want us to return to him and once more give him first place in our lives.

To change our attitude towards those outside catholic church eg Aboriginals, Muslims and others.

We need to be safe haven for the lonely to be a place where they feel safe to belong and begin to grow.

Tolerance, courage, enthusiasm, respect, and confidence.

Become more open and inclusive.

Be willing to change to allow God to be at the centre of our lives.

Putting our faith into action.

Be courageous to walk the difficult journey.

Be witness to the world, bold, clear, joyful, young people desperate.

Care for others as we would like to be cared for.

Get involved with the young people for they are our future.

Set some good examples and morals for our grandchildren.

Be what we preach.

Accept differences in race.

Try to see Jesus in everyone.

Interaction with people you don't know to make them welcomed.

How do we engage with the youth in the Church?

To express our Spirituality to allow others to experience God in their life.

God is asking us to trust.

Relationship with Mary important/ significant.

Need to reach out to the diversity of the population.

Family support and activities.

To help each other to deepen our faith and service of others together.

Why does the church not help those seeking asylum?

To be generous with our time, resources and skills, knowledge and faith to all people.

The Holy Spirit to lead us in all press releases.

More formation to the youth.

Mental health issues of young people and broader community; lots of needs and far reaching consequences.

Can we as a church community be creative in supporting the mental health of the community?

Labelling people is not a good way to live our lives.

Making church more fun and appealing to youth, outdoor programs/ camps.

Migrants and religious needs.

Homelessness.

Inclusive of nationality, gender, LGBT, age, marriage state, no annulment.

Be bold in reaching out to each other.

Generosity.

Creating ways of welcoming those who had lapsed and want to come back.

Being able to serve others.

Formation of children and young people.

Removing the mystery surrounding the catholic church.

Catholics to reach out to help the vulnerable.

New Maori community they have great involvement in the direction of the diocese reflecting diversity.

Find the way in involving the many not the few.

Make a church a welcoming place for all even the broken.

To build the church from inside not to worry about form, format and ritual.

Outreach programs.

Live in a more loving and peaceful way.

Bring families together.

Find the ways of bringing the youth to church and give them responsibilities.

Finding ways to deliver sacraments to people in different places who do not want to or cannot come to the church.

Looking out for each other.

Divorced Catholics how they may easily be accepted to the church.

To embrace in love healing and forgiveness.

Make the church open to all regardless of their religion.

Strengthen the family.

Don't forget the poor and outcast.

Compassionate, inclusive and humble.

Bring back the church members who are no longer coming.

Help the community with housing, education and food.

The church to be more compassionate.

The church that is relatable across the variety of age groups.

Be more inclusive.

Australia/ church to show more of its compassion to the world.

To find new ways of listening to God's call and mission.

To be prayerful and loving community.

To bring youth to Jesus.

Going after the lost sheep in our communities.

Cater for the divorced.

To be an authentic church.

To be the voice of the voiceless.

To be together with those persecuted for their faith and live a life of witness.

Be attentive to the signs of times, issues like marriage equality, assisted the dying, women priests and married priests.

Call to be holy.

Help in bringing our children back to church.

To incorporate through Aboriginal catholic response fully in the life of the church.

An engaging inclusive renewed church for all.

Be accommodative.  
The affected by sexual abuse of the church.  
To be courageous in defending our faith.  
Bible knowledge.  
Get the missionary image of the church back.  
To open our hearts to the asylum seekers.  
Compassion to the refugees by welcoming them.  
Tolerance of race faith and other people's beliefs.  
To put Jesus as the centre of our faith.  
Make programs for different people like for men, for women, for youth.  
Unity to become one people under one God, one holy nation.  
Support the families on parenting courses and communities.  
More accesses to faith formation catechism classes, how do we talk to God mental prayer, rosary and mass.  
Meet the changing needs of the people.  
Live intentionally, inspired by the example of Jesus and a yearning for the transcendent.  
Care for the homeless.  
To profess our faith more openly and be able to share with the world the goodness of the lord.  
To have bible studies.  
To take a firm stand regarding moral issues.  
To seek deeper and personal relationship with God.  
To try to make the programs that help the poor and the marginalised.  
To be aware for the needs of others.  
How to make the church relevant today in today's society?  
How do we reconnect with youth in our parish?  
Promotion of good works done by Catholics.  
Support the young in our church.  
Why do we have more people no longer coming to church today?  
Modern or contemporary thoughts put forward in today's society.  
Can we please have the microphone for people with questions so everyone can learn the questions.  
To live by example and setting example for future generations.  
To stand and support our church and its teachings in these days of trial and testing.  
To consider the ministries, we need and form people for those.  
To grow in faith by learning more about our church.  
Visit Jesus in the tabernacle.  
To be open to the diversity of our church.  
Show more love and compassion, same sex marriages, divorce, euthanasia  
To have more open discussion about religion.  
Mental health.  
Clear view of what we stand for and what principles.  
Approach shy people and make them welcomed.  
Tolerance and forgiveness.  
To be humble, to downsize into small communities, to love each other and to be hopeful.  
Unity- unification.  
To think about our future church by including all.

Openness to change that is inevitable.  
To care for one another.  
To care for mother earth and not to be wasteful.  
Not to judge others.  
God is asking us to pray more often and to be kind and generous.  
That we don't sell our faith about, be passionate about how God is good.  
Love of God and love of neighbour.  
Be part of building the church.  
Asking us to be peaceful.  
Asking us to share our faith and ideas with others.  
To embrace the value of the young and listen to their opinion.  
Be the contributor to growth of the church.  
Recognise that we are all equal before God and all deserve a say.  
We need to recognise non church property as sacred places like gardens, football grounds.  
Unit and support of each other.  
Do not judge people according to their sins.  
Have the courage to ask why?  
To recognise what is baby and what is bath water.  
To move with time.  
To show hospitality in formal gatherings where all views can be discussed.  
Families that prays together stays together.  
The resurrection of the body.  
Create a more open and welcoming church.

## **VOCATION**

Have female deacons.  
Be better support for our, seminarians, deacons, priests, and bishops.  
Priesthood as pastoral role don't expect priests to be leaders or exercise explicit leadership if this is not strongly evident.  
We need female deacons and priests.  
To allow celibacy to be optional.  
Priests to learn about our culture before they come.  
Priests to visit schools and encourage kids to attend mass.  
More women in the leadership roles like deaconess.  
Priest be allowed to marry.  
Priest to look after the spiritual wellbeing of the flock more than getting carried in administration.  
Married clergy especially when now accepting them from other churches.  
To increase vocation to priesthood and religious life.  
Married priests.  
Culture of the clergy hard to understand. (clericalism.)  
To have women Deaconess.  
More laity involvement example women made available when shortage of priests arises.  
Laity to give homilies.

Optional celibacy and or marriage.

That all priests have the option to be married if they want to.

Opportunities for women to be fully engaged in the in the life of the church: a genuine equality.

Possibility that priests could also be married.

Consider the celibacy of priests.

Consider the training of priests whether or not priests are getting the support they need for their health and wellbeing.

Female priests or deacons.

How can we support our religious to live fully in Christ and happier?

Has the Roman Catholic Church deterred young people from considering the priesthood as a vocation?

Include marginalised, married clergy, women ordination.

There were female priests in the early church why not consider again.

Remove celibacy and have married priests.

We have married priests from the other rites we could consider allowing married priests and marry?

How do we get more priests?

How do we promote vocations to priesthood?

Family faith formation.

Optional celibacy and or marriage.

That all priests have the option to be married if they want to.

Opportunities for women to be fully engaged in the in the life of the church: a genuine equality.

Possibility that priests could also be married.

Consider the celibacy of priests.

Consider the training of priests whether or not priests are getting the support they need for their health and wellbeing.

Female priests or deacons.

How can we support our religious to live fully in Christ and happier?

Marriage as vocation to be emphasised

Promoting vocation to priesthood as well as religious life.

Parental education with the church to help them connect with their children.

Priests to be better trained in public speaking.

Priests need to be more human.

Priests need to get down to the level of the parishioners.

Overseas priests need cultural training.

Homilies to be short and to the point.

Training priest to help in marriage counselling.

Priests need to connect with children.

Great priests should teach Bishop how to connect.

We need more priests.

Making celibacy optional.

Marriage for priests.

To promote vocation.



Priests need to be more engaging with the young in homilies.  
To have women in Priesthood.  
Ordination of women.  
Birth control needed. Bring in women ordination to avoid homosexuality in the church.  
Stop celibacy in the priesthood it is not natural.  
Priests talking the real truth about family, sex, marriage and their consequences.  
To support the priests in fulfilling their calling.  
Bishops need to meet with and listen to the priests who are connecting to families and youth.  
All priests should learn how best to speak at schools can use good examples to educate others.  
To pay attention to the formation in schools and religious needs.  
To encourage and promote vocations.  
To be creative in how we can have priests e.g. celibacy as a choice, consider female ordination.  
Rethink the meaning of celibacy.

## **COMMUNICATION**

More openness and engaging – dialogue.  
To listen to others with open minds and open hearts.  
To listen to each other so we can better understand each other.  
To have a listening ear.  
To be open to dialogue with others within and beyond the church.  
Talk and share ideas around us.  
Two-way process dialogue.  
Use technology to reach the young.  
How best can we use technology?  
We need our own media channels to spread the good news, the good we do, share the appropriate programs that speak the word it will change society.  
Relevance of communication – local media- time for lead story to be the Good News for younger ones to pick on.  
Media can be very unhelpful.  
The “google generation” young people find things from computer rather than parents.  
Change of language to 2018 style.  
More into the present time.  
Tell about the goodness done by the church- communication fail.  
We need an independent outreach our own platform for getting information out there.  
Listening to wider community more.  
One to one conversation is important.  
The needs modern language.  
Open communication at all levels of Church.  
Listen to what is not being said when we are talking to someone i.e. are they ok.  
Use internet better with Advent education and information to share the message of Jesus.  
Truth in all our communications.

Priest's duty to inform parishioners migrants stayed together, Spanish community.  
Reach the youth through technology.  
Official forums for ongoing input in Parish.  
Language and concepts need to be relevant to the audience.

## **LEADERSHIP**

More women leadership roles like to preside on baptism, funerals, liturgy, weddings as chaplaincy.

Lead by example.

To be leaders rather than followers.

Women have been the core of and heart of most parishes and parish life and need to be given official and explicit and substantive roles in the church.

Positive change to reflect the recommendations from the royal commission.

To apologise to those hurt.

Women leadership, recognise the real leadership of women and actively allow promote them.

Passive obedience to the leaders has to stop- be leaders not dictators, less judgemental and moral inclusive.

To be humble in the face of 21st century pressures on the church.

To support leadership which is difficult in our way of living today.

Take time to heal our church.

Review the power structures.

Reconsider the current model.

Women need equality with men in the church in all offices.

To be honest, reflect and articulate why or why not the catholic church is effective in today's society.

For our clergy to be strong and not afraid to address all current issues to our congregations.

Teach the true meaning of the service.

To look objectively at our church structures, clericalism, hierarchy.

The consequences of those clergy who betrayed the trust of those who have been sexually abused.

Delegate responsibilities to the lay people.

To consider relevant change to the church in Australia today.

Make positive change and be leaders.

Trust must be restored in our leaders.

Be open to their suggestions.

Embrace our youth and include youth.

Infallibility of the church leaders.

Be more available not clericalism.

Women to continue in their role of care, education and motherhood within the church.

Transition of priest less parishes.

Lay ownership of parishes.

How can we as ordinary people be listened to?

My heart is yearning to have a church that is inclusive of men and women who are recognised as gifted by the holy spirit.

Empowerment of women in ministry.

To develop a more powerful Australian Catholic Media to counteract the negative stereotypes.

To improve the image of the Church in Australia and in our own Diocese.

Inculturation, solidarity, peace and love.

Listen to the people.

Support the people.

Contemporary issues.

Process of healing.

Education for leadership in the church.

Free priests from administration.

We need to say sorry not just for sexual abuse but for all misuse or neglect of power in the church.

Respond to the enquiry of abuse, we should all respond not just the hierarchy, opportunity to turn this around for God.

Women to be in the higher office of the church.

Women to understand and continue their role of education, care and motherhood in the church.

Why does the church not put more effort into highlighting our responsibilities as voters to find out viewpoints of our candidates in relation to legislation which confronts our beliefs?

Moral obligation to be politically aware. Papal Exhortation-Benedict?

How do we be proactive rather than reactive?

How do we set the agenda?

Leadership has failed overcome upheavals.

Leadership inclusive of the laity (the past most patriarchal).

Improve transparency of decision making by the hierarchy of the church.

Lead not follow using core principles as guidance, take responsibility, it is Gods business.

We need church and its leaders to display leadership.

Why is Bishop Pat one of the few bishops taking this open approach?

How can we be more open about the things that are broken in the church?

Lead not follow encourage our families to come back to church.

Support us not to be like the Jewish leaders of Jesus' time.

Involve more lay people.

Woman's standing in the church: absolute equality.

More female involvement.

Empower women.

We need to be more servant.

Consider the role of women.

To look at employing business managers so that priests can focus on their pastoral work.

Ladies are not being involved or recognised for their contribution.

More women in leadership roles.

Government funding is manipulating our religious teachings.

Parishioners feel unsupported by some church clergy and agencies.  
More backbone from the leadership Pope Bishops and Priests to stand up on faith, moral issues and obligation days.  
Less bureaucracy.  
To give men who have left priesthood a higher profile in the church; because at the moment, they are not supposed to take part in church community.  
Tension between payment and volunteering e.g. music/organist director.  
How do we strengthen the core of the Church?  
How can we involve women in the decision making of the church?  
Leadership, inclusiveness, social justice and equality.  
The church that is humble and transparent in acknowledging and learns from its mistakes.  
To say sorry and ask for forgiveness for not listening to the abused children and not taking action.  
Women involvement in ministry.  
Most people in the council are men how do we get around that?  
About 300 delegates go to the plenary council, so it may not be true.  
How do we develop lay parish leadership, at the parish level, to support priests and lay?  
Under canon law only Bishop has deliberate vote and others have consultative vote.  
Is there an opportunity for the youth to be represented at plenary?  
In 2022 how do we know if it has been a success?  
Identify roles and be guided or trained to carry out duties eg in ministries of marriage, funerals, baptisms.  
To give all members old and young, clergy and lay, male and female responsibilities for its life and mission.  
Women leadership role.  
More inviting and less hierarchical structure.  
The church is too institutional.  
Leadership, elect good leaders and form them.  
Honesty leadership, royal commission, refugees.  
To have women in the hierarchy and decision making board.  
Women's contribution to be recognised.  
Church to keep up with changes in society in particular the status of women.  
Women should form 50% of those that are to vote at the plenary council otherwise it will still be patriarchy.  
More lay participation in the life of the church.  
Get more people to be involved in the running of parishes.

## **CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

To teach by showing our children how to get along with everyone.  
What is the true role of catholic education system? Not a private education but a shared catholic journey.  
Educate our young people the basics of our catholic faith.  
Resources into schools as against local faith communities.  
Discipline in the catholic schools.  
Catholic teachers.

Rules for parents to participate.  
Catholic school higher percentage of non-Catholics.  
Rethink about religious education in our schools.  
Grandchildren not attending mass, going to catholic schools but evidence of lack of interest in Church.  
Request children to provide honest assessment.  
Look at the energy that is directed to the Catholic schools.  
Few students professing faith in churches and at secondary school.  
To be positive educate our children to know Jesus.  
Learning about religion from primary school to secondary school before accepting the call of God.  
Start with training good catholic teachers.  
Schools needs to have more reverence, respect for catholic faith and its teaching.  
The schools need to be more religious with religious teachers and less of a business.  
Religion in secondary school need to be brought back into line.  
More religious education in school and examples for the family.  
Catholic religion should be a priority to catholic schools.  
Youth disengaged how do we get in plenary council. Through schools, camp.  
Religion in the schools.  
Regular masses at schools.  
Sex education.  
Faith formation for children at schools.  
School newsletters to be about sacraments, mass and the like.  
Catholic education should really be catholic than being taught by non-practising teachers.  
Bring the children and youth in the faith experience.  
Faith education within families.  
RE must be more relevant and meaningful so it must be revised.

## **FAITH FORMATION**

What is the future of the church in 20years?  
Are we afraid to talk of our religion?  
To get more education on our faith in a simple manner.  
Christian unit worldwide.  
Education improve on the topics covered, God's message and deeper understanding of the church liturgy.  
To raise children according to God's word.  
Teach children how to value the bible.