

Diocesan Assembly Theme 4 Liturgy and Prayer

Reflecting on this topic, what would a parish or diocese living the joy of the Gospel be like?

1. If a stranger walked into Mass, they would know what we are doing.
2. Inclusive language to include women both in scripture reading, homily and prayers.
3. Everyone to be able to hear and understand what is being said.
4. Actions that young people can partake in.
5. Accessibility for disabled people and comfortable seating.
6. Hope in Mary being a focus to wrap liturgy
7. Mass is fun for grandma, but not for a seven-year-old.
8. Move towards ground level to be with the people eg remove the vestment -fine robes;
9. Incorporate children's liturgy; great sense to have children involved in the mass
10. Involvement of the Deacons, parents sitting with younger children breaking over the scripture at a child's level
11. capture the younger families at an early stage e.g. prep level
12. tap into talents -invitational: lay homilists; families to be involved e.g. father and son altar server/mother and daughter server
13. rural communities - opportunity to celebrate Liturgy of the Word/Communion Liturgy without priests during the weekday.
14. In commune with God is being in balance. We are on about the heart... it is good to be reminded of this
15. The scripture passage doesn't necessarily get activated by Sunday mass... there are other ways of and styles of prayer
16. The heartbeat of the liturgical year is the life of the church. The head needs to change about our connection to the Sunday Mass... head informs the heart. There is a missing connection between people and liturgy...
17. Our conversation is a conversation about life with the God of the living. Language is critical in our liturgical life
18. Mass is a community gathering... a place of learning and nourishment for all. A community gathering: food and drink after mass is good
19. The Prayer of the Church... the psalms are powerful spiritual connection for the parish family... the parish gathers to pray The Divine Office
20. People complain about what they don't have but when opportunities are offered parishioners don't turn up. How do you get people to turn up?
21. In our Sunday liturgy we must be careful not to introduce new hymns ... rely on some favourites.
22. An awareness of what we are doing in liturgy brings it alive... we need a change of attitude
23. Aspects of the Sunday celebration must draw us towards God... outside distractions melt away. Multiple masses can accommodate to different styles: charismatic, quiet, guitar... be careful this doesn't divide or sectionalise.
24. Homily, Music & Proclamation are key elements of a dynamic Sunday Liturgy. Formation for ministries is vital. Music meets a need for all demographics in the church and apply to the liturgical theme.
25. Homilies are succinct and displayed on the screen at Mass (in dot point form future reflection and clarity)
26. Sharing of ideas that each Parish undertake to increase richness throughout the diocese offers other liturgies to include everyone such as children, laity, current events
27. Holds a variety charism groups (Marian, Divine Mercy)
28. Has access to music written in a variety of instruments in a central database

29. Offers children's liturgy using a diocesan program written by the CIRE Team
30. A scheduled liturgy of the word/communion for Parishes that do not require the Priest to be there to encourage community involvement
31. Full participation - be welcoming - have welcoming team - listening & hearing -rostered on - spirit filled; formation - workshop for welcomers; face of the parish; understanding of available times to access church; availability of a small chapel - prayer room for personal prayer; sensitivity to those who come.
32. Joyful liturgy, what happened to the joy that believing in the Gospel used to bring.
33. Understanding of the Liturgy, why do we have it? Shouldn't be subjective taste, every type of music is right, need that greater explanation of why the liturgy is there. Joyous, active, excited, enthused, accepting, engaged, involved, innovative, creative, recognise the preciousness of what we have.
34. Joyful in welcoming others at sacramental celebrations. Smiling, happy people.
35. Liturgy understood, especially regarding Scripture.
36. Involves ritual and tradition. Symbolism must have meaning. Full of energy, witness the faith, young people playing at Mass guided by others.
37. Invitational. People feel comfortable and welcome when they enter the sacred space of the Church as the right frame of mind is so important. There would be lots of welcomers to make connections.
38. The readings are proclaimed, the message of the homily is clearly outlined and taken away by parishioners.
39. There are a variety of hymns and the first hymn is always a joyful hymn that all can join in with.
40. Be comfortable with small steps.
41. The right environment is created.
42. The Prayers of the Faithful relate to the needs of the community; children are involved in preparing these.
43. Homilies are done from the body of the Church and can involve responses by the Laity.
44. Social Media and technology is used well with young people involved in this area.
45. The Third Rite of Reconciliation is celebrated. Masses are sometimes celebrated in smaller and more intimate settings, depending on the participants. Parish should be alive in music.
46. Parish needs to preach a message of hope to the people. The priests need to take the homily as a priority. If a homily cannot change a person in the pew, that homily should be changed at the pulpit. Homilies should be short and to the point especially for daily mass. However, for Sunday mass when you have a diverse age range attending at mass e.g. in Cranbourne is difficult. The homily needs to be well prepared to meet their needs, even if it goes on for 15 mins or more. Some felt that homilies should be as long as it needs to be so that God can touch the hearts of the faithful.
47. Problem of some priests from overseas who cannot be understood by the congregation. (When Fr John Allen was alive, he got a speech therapist to help priests speak more articulately). It would be good to have speech therapists to assist priests who may not be able to articulate correctly. Priest should have a mechanism like having a few trusted group of people to provide constructive (&honest) feedback.
48. Gospel needs to be printed for those who attend Sunday mass. Need to educate parishioners as to the parts of the mass. It is assumed that everyone knows it. A lot of children don't know about their faith because their parents don't know about the mass. In Cranbourne for example, the focus is educating these parents - first communion, reconciliation, confirmation. In Cranbourne, the first communion program often results in bringing the parents back to mass.
49. The parish will be a community where people are loved because of who they are; no performance required. Living the Joy of Gospel. Each person conversing with God. Acting out

of love/charity. The parish will be energised, attractive community where people feel they belong.

50. Communicate with the wider community to invite people into. Reaching out to invite. Let people know through actions that all people are welcome. Welcoming Ministry in each parish represented: The Strengths Greeters, tea, chat - need more social activities. Acknowledging everyone who comes to church, connect, converse. Recognise that the parishes are very welcoming. Welcome to take initiative, to outreach - to grow and do new things together as a community.