

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: PORT STEPHENS

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

1. Each Mass centre should be invited to have representation at the Diocesan Assembly
2. In the face of the apparent numerical crisis confronting our church, we need to commit to living lives that give credible witness to Gospel values. We need to be true to both the crucified and the resurrected Christ.
3. Our response needs to be both one of action in the form of effective evangelisation in a modern way, that doesn't compromise our values but extols our virtues, and of attitude: responding to the possible death of our church as we know it – not with anxiety, depression or despair, but with grace-filled hope and confidence, in the knowledge that Christ will be with us always.
4. Re-invigorate worship and liturgy
5. Recognise, form and affirm leadership
6. Revisit catholic education to ensure that our youth are well formed for the future.

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: VINEYARDS

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

1. Each Parish/Region will attempt to develop a website by the next Diocesan Assembly. (Linked to the diocesan web page). Email should be used for communication from the Diocese to Parishes/parishioners. Parish Bulletins posted on website.
2. Mailbag concept to be reconsidered - nominate contact person in an effort to reduce paperwork for priests
3. Assistance with leadership formation and spiritual development for laity (pastoral support). Opportunities for structures to be developed and explained→understanding of change→support and involvement of parishioners
4. Opportunities to develop skills→'face-to-face' interaction of parishioners in order to enable people to support clergy
5. Encourage dialogue across the Diocese to support parishes during times of change e.g. no priest/availability of resources

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION:NORTHERN

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

Help us with;

1. Stewardship –
 - nurturing leadership;
 - nourish and support leaders;
 - reaching out to the marginalised
2. Diocesan Strategic Plan
 - including financial support for local initiatives,
 - sustainability,
 - agencies,
 - assembly timing, etc.
3. Link between schools and communities.
 - staff as part of community,
 - school families link to Parish,
 - outreach to non-catholic schools
4. Permanent Diaconate and Parish Workers – clarification of roles and models of implementation

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: UPPER HUNTER

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

1. Need to further improve communication between Hamilton and the Diocese
2. Events are too concentrated at the far eastern end of the Diocese
3. As much as possible, programs and training need to be conducted at local level in the parishes, in accessible language
4. Parishes need developed and professional organisation and office/information technology, structures, personnel and training and supported by the Diocese
5. Establishment of links to youth and young people

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: CHISHOLM

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

1. Family

- family ministry,
- family friendly events,
- family faith formation

2. Parish

- more priests – married, female, laicised priests for ordination,
- use an available priest in Dungog, Clarence Town area who wishes to be asked,
- expand the responsibilities of chaplains and deacons – give them parish responsibilities,
- let the Parish Priest's stay longer periods,
- give non pastoral duties to the laity,
- regional social gatherings

3. Faith Formation

- on going faith formation using RCIA model and formation processes ,
- discernment of gifts programme,
- make Sunday liturgies more of a celebration of our lives,
- outward looking parish programmes e.g. social justice

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: CITY

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

- 1) We continue the inclusive manner that the diocesan authorities use for developing issueseven extend further
- 2) We improve communication from the top-down and form the bottom-up
- 3) Increase involvement of young people in planning liturgies. Constant outreach to youth in all relevant activities
- 4) We ensure that the principles of discernment and subsidiarity be applied in all decision-making
- 5) We make a more creative effort to improve our outreach to the marginalised in our society
- 6) We tap the potential of the laity (including women) by a more systematic approach to identifying our own gifts

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: EASTLAKES

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

- 1) We need “fallow – time” to allow current decisions to sink in without adding or modifying them. We don’t need to be attempting more projects during this time
- 2) World Youth Day preparations to be accompanied by a 10-15 year plan, to retain those who are drawn closed to Christ through the experience and celebration of WYD (to begin the process now)
- 3) More diocesan support for education and programs on pastoral and regional level. “To express the goodness of being a disciple.”
- 4) More support from the Diocese with faith development assistance on a pastoral/regional level
- 5) That people be given the opportunity to give input. How can change be addressed in Eucharistic celebrations to entice people to return to them?
- 6) That across the Diocese four occasions be identified for a communal rite of reconciliation as part of the Sunday liturgy

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: WESTERN

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

Issues needing to be addressed –

- 1) The importance of hearing personal conversion stories or personal witness stories. Everyone has a faith story and hearing these can be very powerful (not just from the priest but from parishioners or guest speakers of all ages). This will enrich the faith community.
- 2) Bridging the gap between school and church. How do we encourage young people to be more “present” in parish life? Perhaps a greater involvement in masses/liturgies by children/youth and involvement in community/parish life.
- 3) Leadership/education needed in addressing misunderstandings regarding divorced/separated people and all the issues involved, also with single parents. Compassionate, inclusive, non-judgemental pastoral care needed by all.
- 4) Reluctance of young people and their parents to participate in a life of faith and worship. There is a definite need to pursue the reasons for this. World Youth Day could be a vital and useful tool in encouraging participation by young people in parish events/activities.
- 5) Need to be a church of the poor, not just a church of the affluent/middle class. A gap which needs to be bridged. Look at where our prayers for vocations are being answered.

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: BLACKBUTT

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

1. Uniform invitation to formation when parents present their children for baptism and other sacraments
2. Stewardship become policy across the diocese
3. Resources for creating a strong welcoming ministry
4. Create vibrant creative liturgies. Personal witness and testament use of laity in homilies and the mass
5. Creative leadership

WHERE TO FROM HERE

REGION: MACQUARIE

What is our advice to the Diocese (3 – 5)?

1. Find ways as a parish/diocese to develop our capacity to read the signs of the times (seeing how God is at work in society and how we as church co-operate with God – how we surprise people to see God active in their lives).
2. Leadership in the Church is a challenge: ordained/non-ordained/lay/liturgical/other
3. Finance is a challenge that we need to address