

# Eastlakes Pastoral Region

Belmont, Charlestown, Gateshead, Windale and Swansea Parishes

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## Regional Assembly Report - Issues Raised

### Preamble

This is your *Regional Report*, promised by Bishop Michael Malone at your Regional Assembly. We hope it is of assistance to you, as you continue to engage in the process of responding to the regional issues raised at your Assembly.

A good place to begin may be to recall the aims of the round of Regional Assemblies:

1. To provide an opportunity which invited the participation of a wider cross section of people, particularly of young adults;
2. To engage people with stimulus material that would help them develop their understanding of:
  - the influences which have shaped the Church as we experience it today
  - the culture in which we live
  - the type of Church we are called to be
    - what it means to be involved in the evangelising mission of Jesus and his Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
    - what is needed to be effective followers of Jesus in today's culture.
3. To provide an opportunity for participants to discuss key issues in the light of this stimulus material.

The following questions, which emerge from Fr. Richard's presentation, are offered to help you continue to explore your Regional issues in the light of his input.

1. What is the heart or essence of this issue?
2. What about this issue is Good News or has the potential to bring Good News?
3. What about this issue contains obstacles or blocks to the Good News, both for the faith community and the society beyond it?
4. Where or how in this issue, is the Spirit calling you into the Paschal Mystery; into the journey from death to new life?
5. What resources do you have to help you respond to this issue in a way that takes you forward into a fuller living of the life of Christ?
6. Amongst the options you are considering as your response to this issue, what would you consider to be -
  - healthy or unhealthy responses (does it blame; does it deny the existing reality)?
  - responses focused on mission or survival?
  - responses emerging from a catholic (both/and) mindset as opposed to an either/or mindset?
  - responses that will take your community of faith forward?
7. Where and how does your response fit with the 15 principles and tasks outlined in Fr. Richard's sheet 'Shaping the Church's Future'?
8. Will your response spark and energise people's life, passion, commitment and hope?

With every Best Wish,  
The Diocesan Assembly Standing Committee.

<b>Regional Issues</b>	<b>Shared Issues (Region and Diocese)</b>	<b>Diocesan Issues</b>	<b>Universal Church Issues</b>
<p><b>1. Openness to change.</b>  Dimensions of this issue included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain structures which are open to change</li> <li>• More involvement of lay people;</li> <li>• Acceptance of change in a changing society.</li> <li>• We need a strategic plan to facilitate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People's use of their gifts</li> <li>- Community activities</li> <li>- Celebration of identity e.g. parish feasts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<p><b>2. Communication</b>  Examples included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diocesan Bulletin</li> <li>• Webpage</li> <li>• Helplines</li> <li>• Chatlines</li> <li>• Youth programs</li> <li>• Within the parish</li> </ul>			
<p><b>3. Community.</b>  Dimensions of this issue included –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- community care programs</li> <li>- leadership programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increase involvement</li> <li>• Develop our parish as a community of hope</li> <li>• More opportunities to get together: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- social functions</li> <li>- small group activities e.g. dinners</li> <li>- to celebrate our identity at Parish Feasts</li> <li>- to converse about and share our faith. e.g. social justice and moral issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We have good strong community programs and people. Affirm this and build on it.</li> <li>• Days/ gatherings like this good</li> <li>• More lay ministries..</li> </ul>			

#### **4. Outreach/ mission**

Dimensions of this issue included -

- Outreach to non Mass attenders
  - Parents of young people;
  - Young marrieds
- Analyse and respond to poverty in the region
- Increase number of NCC visits each year

#### **5. Faith Formation.**

Dimensions of this issue included -

- More forums for learning about our faith
  - Talking about and exploring faith and what it means to be Catholic today e.g. practical and ecumenical issues.
  - Spirituality
  - Bible study
- Meditation
- Prayer groups
- Retreats
- Promote sacramental programs

#### **Some comments which may help your reflection ...**

While this is a local issue, there are multiple resources available throughout the Diocese to support the region in this issue.

- TWEC – contact Sr. Colleen Carney on 49307431
- Beginning Theology programme – contact Christine Cavenagh on 49791186
- Faith Development Commission can be contacted through Dianne Lantry – Commissions Support Officer on 49791156

#### **6. Youth/ young people.**

Dimensions of this issue included:

- Acknowledgement of great youth involvement already: In the day, Antioch, Altar servers, Junior Vinnies
- Develop more programs and opportunities for youth.
- More involvement of Parish Schools.

#### **Some comments which may help your reflection ...**

- The diocese has already placed considerable focus on this issue culminating in the report Vitalink. Referring to it may be of assistance.
- Paul Toohey is employed by the diocese in the Pastoral Planning area of Young Adult Ministry. He can be contacted on 49791153

**7. Liturgy**

Dimensions of this issue included:

- Help people to participate more in liturgies
- More up beat music like today.

**8. Environment**