

# Western Newcastle Pastoral Region

Wallsend, Shortland, West Wallsend, and Glendale 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. Understanding MINISTRY.</b> Dimensions of this issue included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is ministry? We need to develop our understanding of Ministry. (follow up after Baptism, Confirmation, RCIA.)</li> <li>• The relationship between ordained and lay ministry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Some comments which may help your reflection .....</b> Formation for and about ministry is readily available through a number of resource groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TWEC – contact Sr. Colleen Carney on 49307431</li> <li>▪ Beginning Theology programme – contact Christine Cavenagh on 49791186</li> <li>▪ Faith Development Commission can be contacted through Dianne Lantry – Commissions Support Officer on 49791156</li> <li>▪ As an example of diocesan support for local communities, ‘Stepping Stones: A Formation Process for Ministry with the Sick, Dying and Bereaved’ is running again this year.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>2. Evangelisation</b></p>			
<p><b>3. Building up the Community.</b> Dimensions of this issue included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Witness value of community life</li> <li>• Need to have more interaction between parishes – across region.</li> <li>• Reach out to involve others: parents and the young.</li> <li>• Need to address the issue of a few people doing everything and the resulting perception of cliques.</li> <li>• Consideration to the different ideas that co-exist in the community.</li> <li>• Positive experience of the Regional Assembly.</li> <li>• More work on Sacraments of Initiation. e.g. the post baptismal program from Melbourne which follows the child from baptism to school to other Sacraments of Initiation.</li> </ul>			

#### **4. Communication**

Dimensions of this issue included -

- Between all groups and individuals
- Regarding all issues
- Format of gatherings to promote interaction and discussion amongst people and across age groups etc.
- Consultation with PP important.

#### **5. Our developing understanding of Liturgy**

Dimensions of this included -

- Should we talk to each other or just pray?
- More information wanted on the Third Rite of Reconciliation.