

Parish 2020

Growing a vital sustainable Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Church in Sydney has been blessed with tremendous growth over nearly 200 years—chiefly through over 140 parishes, in which countless people have come to know and love God.

As Sydney has changed, so Parishes have changed over my lifetime and yours. Although parishes provide the most basic experience of “local church” for most people, it is also true that many people identify with other communities and movements, and often travel out of their neighbourhood to the parish they prefer. In the words of Pope Francis (*Evangelii Gaudium*), 'let us embrace these changes as graced opportunities to rediscover the original source of mission in our contemporary world'.

When I was installed as Archbishop on 12 November 2014, I shared with you my hope for our Church in Sydney – for a Church in which the Gospel is preached with joy, the wisdom of our tradition mined with fidelity, the sacraments celebrated with dignity and welcome, and the seminaries, convents and youth groups teeming with new life; a Church in which our parishes, chaplaincies and educational institutions are true centres of the new evangelisation, our laity theologically literate and spiritually well-formed, our outreach to the needy effective and growing, and God glorified above all.

I have commenced a new pastoral project called 'Parish 2020' with the aim of renewing and strengthening Parishes and communities of the Archdiocese for our future, and I want to hear from you about how our parishes can better collaborate to grow the Church in Sydney. Between January and March 2017 I am asking you to provide me with your thoughts about ways to strengthen Parishes and communities in our Archdiocese. This survey provides an important opportunity for your views to be heard, and for us all to share together in prayerfully discerning future directions.

I commend the renewal of the Church of our Archdiocese to your special prayers, as through the Holy Spirit we are united as Church, of one mind and one spirit, working with joy for the growth of God's Kingdom.

Yours in Christ



Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

Parish & Community Survey

HOW TO COMPLETE AND LODGE THIS SURVEY

We appreciate your taking the time to complete the following survey. It should take about 10 minutes of your time. You have a choice of two options for completing this survey -

1. Complete this paper version survey and return it to your local Parish Office by 24th March 2017. Your Parish Office will send it to the Archdiocese on your behalf. Alternatively you can mail it yourself direct to:
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Parish 2020, Level 11, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000
Please consider whether you may have a relative or friend who would be willing to help you transfer your written response to the online option, details of which follow at 2. below)

2. Complete this survey online by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2V7XL9X>

Your responses are voluntary and confidential. Please answer each question as fully as possible. Using **black** or **blue** pen, please **cross** the box next to the category that best describes your response. Choose one only for each question unless it states otherwise.

All responses will be compiled and analysed by the Parish 2020 Working Group established by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, in order to enable him to propose some re-configuration of our parishes that will ensure their future strength and vitality.

PLEASE INDICATE WHO IS COMPLETING THIS SURVEY, BY SELECTING ONE OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW

- Individual survey response
 Representative for collective group response

PARISH CONTEXT

The Parish is the presence of the Church in a given neighbourhood – the place for hearing God’s Word, for worship and celebration of the sacraments, for charitable outreach, and for community building. Sydney’s neighbourhoods are changing! Fresh demographic data can help us identify both the needs and the missionary opportunities in your local parish, and the ways in which your parish might be strengthened by collaboration with other Parishes.

1. PARISH, CHAPLAINCY or COMMUNITY NAME

.....
SUBURB

2. REFLECTING ON THE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS PARISH/COMMUNITY, NAME TWO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES WHICH FORM A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE COMMUNITY

1.....
 2.....

3. ARE YOU OF ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT Yes No

4. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC OR SOCIETAL CHANGES IN YOUR LOCAL AREA IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS THAT HAVE IMPACTED/OR WILL IMPACT ON YOUR PARISH/COMMUNITY?

- Large increase in overall population
 Large decrease in overall population
 Increase in the number of immigrants
 Increase in number of new families
 Growing non-Christian population
 Ageing population
 Major housing development
 Increasingly transient population
 Increase in unemployment
 Changes to local infrastructure (eg: transport options, new roads, schools, etc)
 Availability/Cost of housing
 Other

5. DOES THE MEMBERSHIP OF YOUR PARISH/COMMUNITY REFLECT THE VARIETY OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD? Yes No

6. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THIS STATEMENT Our Parish has ministries and activities which meet the needs of the following age groups

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Children under 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Youth aged 12-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Young adults 18-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ages 31-55 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ages 56-65 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ages 65+ | <input type="checkbox"/> |



RESOURCES God has made us “stewards” of His many gifts. Stewardship can be defined as making the most responsible use these gifts and resources for the good of all. For the lay faithful, it involves the sharing of individual time, talent and treasure as well as the commitment of communal resources (human, material, finances, etc), in service of the community.

7. STEWARDSHIP OF PEOPLE—PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENTS BELOW (Mark one box on EACH line)

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Our Parish has sufficient members to carry out the mission of the Church, including a full range of ministries and programs to serve the needs of parishioners of all ages | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish has effective lay involvement (eg: pastoral council, finance council and committees) to support our pastor and to engage the faithful in the life of and ministry of the Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regular efforts are made to discover parishioners’ talents and invite them to assist the Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish members and groups are well supported and encouraged to suggest and try something new | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish provides opportunities for fellowship which promote belonging and a sense of community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish emphasises developing the laity and collaborative leadership between the people and their pastors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Beyond Mass, I am currently involved in the life of my Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. STEWARDSHIP OF FACILITIES—PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENTS BELOW

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Our Parish facilities are well maintained, attractive and appropriate for parish ministries and programs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish is well located for our own people and for mission to the surrounding neighbourhood | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish is easy to access by both public and private transport | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish has sufficient car parking facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish has facilities which provide a range of rooms and spaces for formal and informal gatherings including different age groups, disabled, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish needs have changed and our facilities require expansion in new areas (eg: aged care, childcare, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES—PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENTS BELOW

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Our Parish operates with a balanced budget and has sufficient operating funds for ministries, programs, facilities and paid staff | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish is not overly dependent on other sources of income, in addition to collections, to manage its day to day running costs (eg: rental income, extraordinary fundraisers etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am a regular supporter of the Parish financially through the Parish envelope program | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish has sufficient qualified personnel (administration, ministry workers etc.) to run its programs and meet the legitimate needs of parishioners | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish provides regular updates on the financial position of the Parish and annually makes a financial report available to Parishioners | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish supports missionary activities such as overseas missions, outreach to the poor, charitable works, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> |



MISSION PRIORITIES

Experience and research shows that parishes only remain strong and vital when they are outward looking, welcoming, and consciously seeking to invite others to share our faith in Christ. This is the mission of every parish. But each parish must identify the priorities relevant to mission in its particular neighbourhood. What does your parish need to be and to do in order to draw people to Christ? Where should your focus be? What particular strengths does your parish bring to the Church's evangelising mission?

10. IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY BY THIS PARISH AND/OR COMMUNITY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. Please select areas where action is needed, or there is enthusiasm for involvement (Please select up to THREE only of the following ranking them from 1-3 with 1 being of highest priority for you)

- Improve liturgical celebrations to ensure our worship is joyful, vibrant and prayerful
- Initiate groups and/or identify opportunities which strengthen and foster marriage and family life
- Develop a deeper understanding of 'evangelisation' and its implications for ourselves, our families, our parish, local community and our world
- Pro-actively promote vocations in all their forms
- Improve our ecumenical and inter-faith relationships
- Strengthen the relationship between Parish and School/s
- Review and develop the Parish's social justice ministry to reach out in love and service to those in need and those who otherwise feel less accepted

- Review engagement with youth and young adults to improve welcome and invitation to serve
- Reach out to people with special needs (eg: divorced, separated, single parents, disabled, full-time care-givers, etc.)
- Enhance sacramental programs to ensure children, youth and couples are well-prepared for the Sacraments
- Help parents in their role as teachers of faith to their children
- Develop the material, financial and human resources necessary for a vital and vibrant Parish

COLLABORATIONS



The independence and unique style of individual Parishes and pastors provides diversity and flexibility for the Church's mission across Sydney. However, changing neighbourhoods, aging communities, and run-down facilities make it difficult for some smaller parishes to maintain their vitality and missionary outreach. Collaboration between parishes can strengthen communities, minimise duplication in pastoral life and activity, and enable parishes to be more effective, despite their limited resources. How might your parish work more closely with some neighbouring Parishes? How might you share your gifts and resources to provide more effective pastoral care and outreach to the broader community?

11. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS MIGHT YOUR PARISH COLLABORATE WITH NEIGHBOURING PARISHES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (Please select up to FIVE only ranking them from 1-5 with 1 being of highest priority for you)

- Coordinating Mass times and devotional practices across a group of parishes
- Shared events, retreats, pilgrimages and activities between Parishes, Deaneries and Regions
- Faith and spiritual formation programs between a group of Parishes
- Shared opportunities to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community
- Shared youth and young adult ministry across a group of Parishes and/or offered at a Deanery or Regional level
- Offering Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults across a group of Parishes
- Bringing together leadership teams for fellowship and exchange of concerns and ideas
- Using shared facilities and administrative staff (eg: office space, meeting rooms, secretarial, etc.)
- Sharing of liturgical and sacramental resources

12. PLEASE NAME TWO NEIGHBOURING PARISHES WITH WHOM YOUR PARISH COULD COLLABORATE

1.....

2.....



THE NEW EVANGELISATION

In the recent past, Catholic people tended not to invite others to share their faith. Parishes focussed on ministering to their regular participants. Today vital parishes are re-discovering the call to evangelise – to reach out to those who have not heard of Christ, or those who have - but have given up practice of the faith. The call to positively witness to the good news of God’s saving love and the hope of eternal life in Christ is part of our Baptismal mission. Vital parishes are discovering that the more proactively they engage with this mission, the stronger they become as faith-filled communities. How might your parish embrace the call to new forms of evangelisation? How can the resources of your Parish be used to spread the Gospel?

13. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENTS BELOW

(Mark one box on EACH line)

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Our Parish is welcoming, inclusive and culturally sensitive to all who approach us | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish actively reaches out to Catholics who have drifted away from the Church | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Apart from Sunday Mass, the Parish has events that are intentionally designed to reach those in the wider community who have yet to hear the Gospel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish is meeting the needs of those most vulnerable in the community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our Parish is 'set in its ways' and resists changing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The members of our Parish have a clear understanding of their mission to 'go make disciples of all nations' | <input type="checkbox"/> |

14. HOW DOES YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARN ABOUT YOUR PARISH BEYOND THE PARKING LOT? (Please select TWO ways in which you would support the Parish to reach out

- Hold a Parish Community Open Day
- Collaborate more closely with local community groups and activities
- Set up an information booth at the local shopping centre
- Improved communications via social media (eg: website, Facebook etc.)
- Distribute information material in the community (eg: signage, fliers/bulletins in local shops etc)
- Conduct letterbox drops (eg: to local high-rise developments)
- Advertising in the local newspaper

15. HOW CAN THIS PARISH REACH OUT MORE DYNAMICALLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THOSE WHO ARE SEARCHING?

ABOUT YOU

16. WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-79 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 80 or older |

17. WHAT IS YOUR SEX?

- Male Female I would prefer not to say

18. WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single, never married | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married | <input type="checkbox"/> Separated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In de facto relationship | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced |

19. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME?

(Select one or more for multiple children at home)

- No, I have no children living at home
- Yes, aged 12 or younger
- Yes, aged 13-18
- Yes, aged 19 or older

20. GENERALLY SPEAKING, HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU SAY YOU ATTEND MASS? (Please select whichever ONE ap-

- More than once a week
- Usually every week
- Between weekly and monthly
- Between once a month and once every six months
- Only for major festivals or events (eg: Christmas, Easter, weddings, funerals etc.)
- Never

21. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I have a strong sense of belonging to this Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am regularly involved in Parish group activities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

22. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE REASON WHY MOST PEOPLE DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH?

- No belief in God
- No belief in organised religion
- Not feeling welcome
- Church is boring/lacks relevance to life experience
- Faith is strong, but the church fails to meet their needs
- Personal issues that affect attitudes towards the Catholic Church
- No 'good' churches nearby
- Busy lives which do not allow time for church
- Church teaching on contemporary 'hot topics'