

# Ku-ring-gai Chase

**Responses: 333**

*The Parish Survey Summary is a summary of the feedback that was provided by Parishioners in the Synod Parish Survey conducted in February 2011. The comments contained in this summary were taken directly from the surveys that were completed by parishioners and so therefore reflect the thoughts, ideas and feelings of the people of the Broken Bay Diocese.*

## **Priests/Clergy - Aspects you like about your parish:**

- Fr Robert Borg (17)
- The priests (16)
- Friendly and easily approachable priests (8)
- Good Parish Priest (7)
- Friendly priests (7)
- Approachable friendly priests (4)
- Robert Borg – good priest (4)
- Good priests (4)
- Daily mass celebrated by priests (4)
- Priests are friendly and engaging (3)
- Fr Robert's homilies are always relevant & concise & I can understand him (3)
- Warmth and welcoming of all the priests (3)
- Great parish priests (2)
- Leadership of parish priest (current as well as predecessors) (2)
- Like homilies of the priests we have (2)
- Priest available to celebrate
- The wonderful priests who pass through and run this parish
- Reverence of the priest at masses
- Homilies short yet deeply meaningful
- PP & previous Caucasian assistant priest
- Fr Robert doesn't get too political
- Have a parish priest and assistant
- Fortunate to have an excellent parish priest who is and inspired speaker and leader
- Character / attitude of clergy
- Priests are great
- Kind and understanding priests
- Wonderful priest – Fr Borg
- Intelligent, to the point sermons
- Priest is pretty good
- Caring committed priests

- Having a priest for a long time, rather than changing on a regional basis
- Parish priest great example
- Fr Borg and the other priests
- Meaningful sermons that are not too long
- Good to have international priest
- Approachable, understanding clergy
- Welcoming priests
- Fr John's sermon
- Commitment of the priests
- Priests are very engaging
- Great priest
- Excellent holistic guidance of priests
- A priest that has time to interact with the parishioners, meet them after mass and set a time to have dialogue.
- Fr Robert is an outstanding leader
- Communication within the priest, congregation. Problems and queries are dealt with in a manner that helps the community create a better future
- Help from parish priests
- Good number of priests
- Fr Robert Borg – his help and understanding as Parish Priest
- Fr Borg's sermon
- Priests and the services
- Enthusiastic priests
- Informative homilies
- Our wonderful priest, Fr Robert Borg
- Modern priests
- Clergy
- Priests that look after us
- The care given by our parish priests and those in our ministry groups
- Assistant priest
- Dedicated priests
- Priests – good leaders, friendly & approachable
- Nice priests
- Parish priest who understands that sermons are meant to be meaningful, not just waffle to fill a predetermined amount of time
- Parish priest that tries to make sermons meaningful and concise rather than just rambling on and on.....
- Dedicated young priests
- Homilies are the right length of time
- Kind and helpful priests
- Priests visiting to celebrate mass in KCCP
- Closer interaction of parishioners to the priest
- Leadership of the parish
- Good homilies that kids can listen to
- Fr Robert Borg – Excellent
- Fr Borg's homily – very straight to the point and inspirational

- Fr Borg who is a true Christian and lives his life to the fullest – engaging with everyone in a humble and caring way
- Priests and clergy who engage with the community
- Wonderful Parish Priest
- Outstanding Parish Priest
- Fr John Mutuku, Fr Jinto and Fr Robert’s willingness to engage the Sacraments (Holiness)
- Priest is straight to the point and approachable
- Fr Robert – particularly his relationship to the primary children.
- Accessible, friendly & knowledgeable priests
- Very friendly and easy going priests who relate to parishioners way of life
- Excellent parish priest who is open, caring, friendly, inclusive. Wonderful, inspiring liturgies and excellent baptism ministering.
- Priests are active in the parish
- Length of time our parish priest has been with us
- Friendly and welcoming aspect of the clergy, especially Fr Borg
- Friendly nature of priests
- Availability of priests!
- Have had wonderful dedicated caring priests over past 45 years
- Have 2 priests
- Quality of teachers and clergy
- Great parish priest, Fr Borg = confident and willing parishioners. Fr Borg – gets the job done. He makes clear decisions and monitors communications so “errors” do not exclude anyone. He innovates eg: Atrium - a wonderful dimension.
- Agent Parish Priest, Fr Borg plus a great supply of priests over a long period of time.
- Priests are nice/good
- Fr Robert is very good, dynamic, contemporary thinking and relevant.
- Parish priests are approachable and hardworking and lead by example
- Availability of priests
- Excellent priests
- Fr Borg – very hands on and approachable
- Dedication of our priests
- Vibrant, wholly engaged parish priests

**Priests/Clergy - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- Introduction of overseas priests
- Many successful Deacons have joined the clergy – good to see
- Clear and strong messages from Fr Borg. Also a good communicator and organiser
- Recruitment of priests from overseas to cater for shortages
- Accepted changes in priests serving the parish

- Acceptance of overseas priests as assistants now in the parish
- Welcoming of new priests as parish priests and with them new regimes
- Retaining dedicated priests eg: Fr John Hannon
- Continuing support from the priests
- Inviting priests from around the globe
- Employing foreign priests
- Effective utilisation of foreign priests to cater for lack of Australian priests
- Confirming the reappointment of Fr Robert Borg for a further term
- Continued for the parish by Fr Borg
- New priests (2)
- Having young priests
- Having wonderful priests (2)
- Being able to talk to all the staff and priests
- Having a deacon
- Multicultural priests
- Good priests
- Retaining long term parish priest
- Deacon being ordained from within the parish
- Welcoming priests from overseas and making them part of our parish
- Priests have more interaction with parishioners now
- Support for the clergy
- Good caring, strong parish priest, Fr Borg who leads with knowledge, skill and compassion.
- Priests preaching more to the consideration of the people
- Providing enough priests so we have mass
- Acting priests from different parishes and countries
- Very efficient & helpful parish office staff
- Having a fulltime priest and assistant priest allows flexibility of mass times.
- Overseas (African & Indian) priests welcomed. Apart from some language problems. Is loneliness being addressed as they are very young?

**Priests/Clergy - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Lack of / Shortage of priests in the future (60)
- Decline in parish priests (5)
- Lack of Australian speaking priests (4)
- Retaining /replacing priests (3)
- Change of Parish Priest if Fr Borg assignment not extended (2)
- Lack of priests – have lay people involved (doing more)
- It is important to have homilies that are bible based and relate to our personal lives
- More emphasis on Jesus alone as our Saviour and the bible as our blue print for living

- Moral theology needed more in homilies. Secular values are creeping into our legislation and young peoples minds
- Depend on priests from overseas
- International priests are difficult to understand and tend to have pre-Vatican ii attitude. Eg: preaching about abortion on Christmas eve
- Finding priests that relate to the people
- We have no permanent assistant priest that we can relate to
- Maybe ex-priests who have married could be involved
- Priestly leadership – international priests – aged/overworked
- Foreign priests hard to understand (their English)
- Training new priests to communicate CLEARLY with congregation
- Changing the PP should be carefully considered – just not changed for the sake of change
- Priest be more available to parishioners
- Need more priests and deacons
- Difficulty in understanding English spoken by visiting foreign priests – well intentioned but hard sometimes to concentrate on the word of God
- Lack of religious priests / Nuns
- Parish priests – requiring overseas priests to cover shortfall
- Shortage of priests – will result in less available mass times
- Have more priests at our own parish
- Retaining our current parish priest
- More deacons to take pressure off priests
- Clear communications through the “new”, wonderfully spiritual priests from Kenya/India etc.
- Lack of local clergy. Overseas priests can be difficult to understand and have a vastly different culture to ours.
- Keep encouraging “clear, simple” communication by visiting /overseas priests. This is difficult but the quality of priests is worth it they are good men.
- Suggest that visiting / overseas priests write/print their sermons so the accent “of home” or the “misleading reporting” of what was said can be clarified.
- Don’t mind “whereabouts” of priest culture, but would like more support for them.
- Having enough priests to cover the masses for both churches
- Obtaining and keeping good priests
- Work load put upon priests
- Visiting priests from overseas (language, traditions, culture) all need to be addressed
- Vocations – Priests, Deacons, scripture teachers
- Maintenance of priests seems to be a real challenge.

## Parish/Community - Aspects you like about your parish:

- Friendly parishioners (80)
- Close knit / Community parish – people are friends/family (71)
- Welcoming – (to new parishioners incl) (40)
- Sense of (genuine) Active community (21)
- Partnership /community with school and parish (17)
- Connection with Primary school communities (12)
- Caring volunteers /parishioners (11)
- Family friendly (11)
- Support from congregation to each other (11)
- Warm / relaxed atmosphere (10)
- Close relation to school – shared activities / involvement of students in masses – (kindergarten welcome to mass) (8)
- Support members of community who are struggling (8)
- Sense of belonging (5)
- Being a small (active) community (5)
- Never pressured to join in parish social activities
- Combining 2 parishes (work well together) (4)
- Morning tea after mass (3)
- Parishioners / People (3)
- Historical / sentimental to families – (marriages, baptisms etc celebrated at parish) (3)
- Relationship between priests and parishioners (3)
- Great environment (safe) (2)
- Approachable / friendly office /school staff (2)
- Extent of it geographically (size) (2)
- Community support and concern (2)
- Generous responses to appeals (2)
- Access to bulletin, rosters etc via parish website (2)
- Growth (2)
- Multicultural (2)
- Relative youth of the congregation (3)
- Involvement of the children (2)
- Bulletins are well organised /informative (2)
- Respectful children
- Have meetings for mothers and young children
- Peaceful & clean
- Vibrant with a lot going on
- Comfortable – even on hot or cold day
- Not all about how much money you can give (can be focus in other churches)
- Quite a few young families
- Bus trips for seniors
- Social events
- Forward thinking

- Brining children up in the catholic faith – parish does in a way that is engaging and encouraging
- Lovely church
- Help for older parishioners
- Work done within
- Values of our parish represent the values of our community
- Great sense of pride in parish
- Caters for the needs of all ages and backgrounds
- Informative newsletter regarding the community
- Friendly coffee station after 10am Mass
- Reach out
- Inviting
- Able to attend different churches at different times
- Community links – outreach events initiatives
- Parish committed
- Good leadership through PP, Parish Council, Liturgy and other numerous ministries
- Out of parish activities
- All aspects of faith catered for (young and old)
- Helping refugees
- More volunteers
- More support needed for the needy
- How people willingly get involved
- Hard working parish
- Not overstated / simple approach
- Gift shop at back of church always well stocked
- Involvement of all ages
- Community involvement

**Parish/Community - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- Combining Berowra and Asquith parishes (87)
- Growth of parish (8)
- Making closer communities – building community (6)
- Starting to work together after amalgamation (5)
- Increase in parishioners (5)
- Parish social events (4)
- Social gatherings – football matches, movie nights etc (3)
- Built and maintained strong Christian community (3)
- Establishment of a Parish Council (2)
- Successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary organisation and celebrations (2)
- Strong Community / Commitment (2)
- Support staff who do a great job
- Aboriginal ceremony that joined the two parishes as one

- Keeping church open when threat of closing – keeping Asquith and Berowra open
- Past 25years has seen increase in parish population but less people are attending mass
- Given family a sense of God as friend and sustained our faith
- Growth and contribution of our parish leadership
- Children involved in Mary MacKillop celebrations
- Family community
- Involved in promoting all towards faith
- Improved church activities
- Development of programs to involve parishioners with church activities
- Expanding our relationships with other parishes
- Increased involvement of laity in liturgy and parish life
- Parish newsletter – informative and interesting
- Welcoming of foreign cultures into church
- Effective use of lay people to support priests
- Parish unity
- Still here all be in a slightly different form
- Better coordination of programs delivered
- Relevant notices for parishioners
- Open faith encouragement
- Starting to run an Alpha course in Christianity
- Well informed
- Development of a strong sense of loyalty from the community
- Acceptance of newcomers – openness
- Will we be allowed to “grow up”?
- Social networking organised & achieved
- Welcomed many new parishioners
- Good fetes
- Vibrant catholic culture

**Parish/Community - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Declining attendance number (42)
- Aging population (18)
- Somehow get the people who flock to the schools to come to church and embrace catholic/Christian values (6)
- Getting parents from schools involved in the parish (and keeping them involved) (5)
- More participation from parishioners (5)
- Attracting more school families to mass (especially Sunday) (4)
- Encourage Lapsed Catholics back (4)
- Attracting people back to mass (3)
- Not enough volunteers (3)
- Aging population (often active women) (3)
- Lack of attendance by school families (3)

- Absence of middle age group of parishioners – no one replacing the older generations (2)
- Getting people to come to mass (2)
- Older parishioners who have offered their services for many years are now starting to retire & need replacements (2)
- Relevance – moving with the times (2)
- Bringing faith to the people (2)
- Need growth – outgoing volunteers are not being replaced (2)
- Having a tighter connection between parish and school as a whole
- Converting adults to the faith
- Bringing more people into the church on weekends
- Adapt a more modern view – keep in touch with issues faced by parishioners – job security, environmental etc
- Maintaining relationships between schools and parish
- To grow the number of people receiving the sacraments
- Commitment to aging population
- Getting more young people back to church. Other Christian churches are full with young people who talk to each other (which we don't)
- Most things are on at night. Workers too tired to attend – retired /elderly might come in the day
- Being once 2 parishes and being 30 mins away from each other does not help build community
- Great real involvement in parish decision making
- Sustaining faith especially in the young
- A need to bring people together
- Group involvement
- Help people feel connected to parish community (still feel like a visitor after many years of worshipping here)
- Need to cater for the young people of the parish to make mass more relevant to them
- Aging community – more support for those wanting to stay in their homes from the parish community they have belonged to for years
- Look after the elderly parishioners allowing no-one to feel lonely or forgotten
- Attracting new families
- Maintaining school community both spiritual and physical
- Changing community – more transient / remote – business of life
- Practice our faith by example
- We need to know and SEE our parish committee – more contact face to face
- Control children who make noises
- Share the workload
- Encourage older Catholics
- How to involve the school communities – separation between school and church needs to be fixed
- More fellowship within the church
- Development of the laity – the body of knowledge and ability within the parish that can be more fully utilised.

- Have a coffee corner (if possible) to meet with parishioners and to chat with our new priest (when there is one)
- Continuation of coming together of the two church communities
- More interests for those that are not involved at present (I would like to be more involved than I am)
- Need for more involvement in lay ministry and ordained ministry
- Re-evangelisation of resting Catholics
- How to be more ecumenical
- Attracting more participation from those in the parish that are not active
- Presenting the Catholic church as a modern place by educating others in the community about the progress it has made
- Growing population
- Not meeting the needs of the congregation
- Non commitment to Sunday mass
- Not enough parish members attending mass
- Regular mass attendance v's busy lives/lifestyle
- People/parishioners contributing to the mass /church regularly
- Keeping in touch with parishioners
- Making people feel like they belong
- Keeping young families coming and getting involved
- Encourage Catholics to be conspicuous by their demonstrated Christian generosity
- Current parishioners reaching out to lapsed Catholics
- Might get crowded
- Pastoral Care
- Loss of faith
- Falling numbers of attendance despite growing number of children being enrolled in the catholic schools
- Need to attract young people, middle aged people and families so that our church has a future
- That our leaders are knowledgeable enough to teach God's word correctly. That adequate training is available and accessible
- Increasing secular nature of contemporary society
- Presenting positive aspects of being part of a faith community
- Lack of people willing to participate & help
- Vision for the future
- Bringing together all the parish aims
- Size of school – limited spaces – more homes proposed for area (2)
- Preference to be given of local churches for children at Catholic school. Expand school with consideration of entry to school given to local parishioners
- Need to be more welcoming to non-Catholics and various cultures
- Parish is losing its community as attempts to “coerce” people into going to mass actually drives them away.
- Maintain attendance records
- Lack of community help
- Keeping church relevant to community and younger people (2)
- Restoring respect for the catholic church

- It's hard to be introduced to parishioners when one enters the parish life
- Need to be more welcoming to outsiders
- Less rigidness
- Retaining participation
- Uniting two separate parishes
- Next generation to care and take care of our parish
- Closer ties between three communities
- Parish to continue to grow in faith
- More adult education programs
- Perhaps further amalgamation into a wider (less personal) "parish"
- Losing parishioners to other faith communities
- Have more church/religious related activities
- More interest in the senior group of the community in the parish
- Hospitality - always talking about it be never doing anything about it
- Maintain high reputation in the local community with lack of various volunteers
- Regular family attendance – more school masses
- Non-exclusive
- No parish functions for families
- Issue of quiet, peaceful reform

## **Liturgy/Ministry - Aspects you like about your parish:**

- Music is good and lively / choir - strong ministry (31)
- Good spread of mass times – Weekday and Sunday (29)
- Involvement of dedicated parishioners in various ministries – SVDP, RCIA, Altar society etc (15)
- Celebration of the mass / Liturgy – Vibrant /Prayerful/high quality (13)
- Great privilege of having daily mass (at both churches) (4)
- Rosary – daily / rosary roster (4)
- Great family groups (4)
- Children’s choir (4)
- There is at least one mass daily (3)
- Traditional masses (3)
- Family groups help build community (3)
- RCIA – active group (3)
- 4pm Mass at Brooklyn (3)
- Children’s masses (3)
- Easter and Christmas mass celebrations (2)
- Involvement of school children at morning masses (2)
- Opportunity to be involved in ministries eg: reader, choir, etc (2)
- Music and the whole congregation singing (2)
- It offers Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and children’s liturgy (2)
- Masses short and to the point (2)
- RCIC (2)
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Monthly) (2)
- Number of groups active in parish eg: social justice, SVDP, RCIA etc
- Everyone involved in mass
- Active ministry
- Active involving all ages in church activities
- Services are “friendly” and not too formal
- Morning masses
- Sacraments – plenty of opportunity for all parishioners
- Services always on time
- Adrian’s music and singing
- Good modern singing Choir – draws parishioners to the mass
- Involvement of laity – especially women
- Mass is short and sometimes too rushed
- Parish times (Sunday 6pm Asquith)
- Open air mass and children’s mass
- Good liturgy
- Introduction of class masses where children bring their parents
- Lovely place of worship – St Patrick’s Asquith
- Lots of opportunities to worship God ie: Daily mass, Taize nights, reconciliation, etc
- Pastoral Care
- Organisation of programmes ie: sacramental

- Have latest technology (data projector etc)
- Opportunities within the parish for spiritual guidance
- Holy Communion for the sick and elderly
- Excellent sacramental program run by the parish for the parents and children
- Variety of services available – different styles to suit all different tastes
- Opportunity for Lay involvement in the various parish activities
- Opportunity to be involved in the life of the parish
- Baptism program
- Good Lay participation in various aspects of parish life
- Religious spread of information
- Festive celebrations recognised
- Use of modern technology
- Sunday service – Asquith
- School kids involvement at service
- Shorter homilies
- School weekly class masses
- Female altar servers – equality for women
- Use of more modern liturgical hymns also gives encouragement to the young people
- Development of spirituality at own pace
- Have the children take on larger role
- Opportunities for state school children to participate in activities – liturgy, choir etc
- Holy Week and Extra Lenten Devotions eg: Benediction
- Monthly Exposition
- More involvement of families (especially children) in mass and sacraments
- Liturgy and music
- Joins with other local churches to spread God's word eg: Christmas message in local paper

### **Liturgy/Ministry - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- RCIA program successful and growing each year (34)
- Good Music ministry - musicians /Choir and on regular basis (12)
- Sacramental program for children - (being run by parishioners) (11)
- Introduction of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (7)
- Mass times synchronised well – always a time to suit all (5)
- Volunteers helping with ministries along with the upkeep of the church (4)
- Family groups – (good for new parishioners) (4)
- RCIC run by enthusiastic parishioners with many young attending (4)
- Opening various ministries to the Laity (3)
- Children's choir – excellent (3)

- Social Justice groups (3)
- RCIA and RCIC are doing well (3)
- Establishing a children's liturgy during Mass (2)
- Beautiful liturgies with terrific music (2)
- Mass at Brooklyn on Saturdays has been brilliant (2)
- School masses (2 days a week at both churches) (2)
- More baptisms happening (and great to see) (2)
- Baptisms are being performed during Sunday masses with the parish community (2)
- Home Rosary (2)
- Involvement of children in our masses (2)
- Good catechists – having catechists for public schools (2)
- Providing opportunities for parish members to be involved in greater Diocesan programs, education etc
- Overheads for people to participate in things
- Starting a prayer group
- Inclusion of all in parish liturgy, communication and spiritual growth especially Lectio Divina
- Attempting get families involved in the sacramental programmes
- Seniors ministry
- Mass on time
- Formation of senior choir
- Developed active and effective groups for inviting and welcoming new Catholics
- Large number of children going through the sacramental program
- Provision of catechists to 5 (Asquith end) state schools and inclusion of these children in parish program
- Improved Lenten liturgies
- Better pastoral care
- Festive masses – SVDP
- More involvement of Lay persons
- Having 3 masses for different age groups
- Increase of parishioners working together – should be more
- Catechists doing more in local state schools
- Provided a welcoming mass
- LinC
- Opportunities for Prayer outside the Mass with various groups within the parish
- Playgroup
- Welcoming many, many babies and families in baptism in strong meaningful liturgies – (opportunity to call them back into community through our sacramental program)
- Easter and Christmas Masses in both churches
- Various ministry groups – care and encouragement shown to others
- Increase numbers of ministries
- Minister to the sick
- Improved liturgy
- Allowing priests to perform marriages at venues other than a church

- Masses are shorter
- Larger weekly congregation
- Training of ministers for service
- Communal baptism
- New curriculum for teaching SRE in state schools – enjoying the syllabus and the children’s responses
- Ecumenical services – finding similarities NOT differences - #1 priority
- Increased involvement of the Laity – BBN, Lectio Divina, good communications from Fr Borg.
- Inviting the “newly born” to come to their spiritual journey through the friendly calm and inclusive baptism witnessed during our masses
- Appointment of Acolytes and female servers
- Encouraging the school children to attend weekday masses form parish schools
- Sincerity of people on various committees and in groups
- Reconciliation
- Gives all the sacraments required by parishioners

**Liturgy/Ministry - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Shortage of Catechists in state schools (7)
- Little “volunteer” involvement – usually done by same groups of people (3)
- Need more parishioners to volunteer for ministries (2)
- Bring back 3<sup>rd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation (2)
- Responses / Creed etc on screen. (2) This would enable those that don’t attend mass / visitors / newcomers / children to not feel alienated as they don’t know the words. (would also assist with learning them)
- Need for adult catechesis regularly. (Especially with regards to “Theology of the Body” ) (2)
- Need more priests, altar servers and catechists (2)
- More pastoral care – more personal approach (2)
- Ongoing liturgy & music that all can participate in and be inspired by. (2)
- Need for inspirational music that all can sing with (2)
- Recruitment of lay people (2)
- Choir /music needs improving (2)
- More involvement required from lay people
- Helping parishioners not to be so inward looking and be more active in ecumenical and interfaith issues.
- Would like to see 6:30pm Vigil moved to earlier time for winter (some elderly people won’t drive in the dark)
- Support for seniors
- Engagement of other faiths
- Adult faith formation and spirituality

- Ecumenism – should connect with Jewish groups and any Jewish holidays in weekly newsletter
- Offer Latin masses
- Show solidarity with the millions of persecuted Christians around the world by organising pray and active holy help
- Too many baptisms during mass – frustrating as it loses its uniqueness. Should be special mass once a month.
- Times for reconciliation are poor
- No Baptism masses
- No early morning masses in the parish eg: 7am or earlier (there was one but has been cancelled)
- More participation and liveliness in choirs
- Catechists to take children at start of mass and return after Gospel because of noise during mass
- Better times for confession
- Would like confession daily – maybe half hour before each mass
- Quiet time to pray – enclosed chapel within the Tabernacle
- Good reliable choir before every mass throughout the year
- Grief support to those that have lost family
- Add more masses
- Ecumenism
- Shortage of people involved in parish ministries and activities
- Improve provisions for the sight/vision impaired eg: better sound system, move screen to better position
- Music – when live music unavailable recorded music needs to be to enhance the singing – not so classical / old
- Not as much music played as in previous years
- Visits to the elderly
- Unfortunately family groups have been unable to reach out to new members in recent years
- Need more adult faith education also opportunities for the youth to grow in faith
- Need small bible studies
- Better outreach to public schools
- Encouraging ongoing music – support the existing helpers as well as enlisting new members
- Better hygiene – individual (wine) Blood of Christ cups
- Sunday school
- Hope St Pat's and St Bernard's are able to continue with current mass times
- More reforms in music ministry
- Growing the liturgy
- More individual participation in liturgy
- 8am mass at St Patrick's – music/choir could be better prepared
- Lack of opportunities for Non-English speaking community to participate in parish work

- Sacramental program was highly disappointing and the lack of cooperation and sense of community celebration from admin was disheartening and does not encourage me .
- Singing
- Need more emphasis on continuity while studying the bible
- Lack of maturity of elders in understanding role of Confirmation (Saints)
- Ethic classes being taught in public schools
- Embracing more direct involvement of the lay community in the liturgy
- Not enough people involved in the choir
- Music needs to be inspirational – too slow and drab
- School parents ministering more activities to teenagers eg: youth group
- More training for acolytes, servers etc
- Baptism – to complete paperwork rather than truly join the church
- Mass participation
- Constant changes to mass (some objectionable)
- More people to appreciate the sacrament of Penance
- Continue the journey of ecumenical services and functions
- Asking families to come together in Mass and liturgies.
- Parish needs more pastoral care and adult spirituality – eg: prayer, bible study etc. Sometimes it seems the church is an appendage to the Primary school.
- Continue the struggle to support Atrium
- Meditation (see Arcadia Monastery)
- Encourage contemplation – only the Contemplative church will survive
- People not coming to mass and the sacraments
- Liturgies can be more modern and less restrictive. Churches in western Sydney sing and have modern stuff.
- Integration of the new Roman Missal into our liturgy
- Support of parish ministries
- Numbers attending reconciliation
- Encouraging involvement in liturgy
- Modernisation in music and in rules and regulations
- More spirited hymns
- More volunteers to help clean and maintain church.
- Erosion of devotions and adoration. General failure to promote personal spiritual development
- Need Divine Mercy liturgy and picture on the church wall!!!!
- More adoration
- School masses are beautiful – however no carry over to Sunday and holiday masses – Family attendance is almost NIL!
- Little follow up for readers and Eucharistic ministers - no enquiry to how we are or if we need support – most are quite elderly who will replace them? Note in the bulletin every so often not much use – PERSONAL APPROACH??? Have never met as a group for years.
- Opportunity for parish renewal in the form of a retreat perhaps lead by the Carmelites with some contemplative dimension.
- Nurturing a contemplative spirituality in the children of our primary and secondary schools

### **Youth - Aspects you like about your parish:**

- Many young people in this parish so this creates a positive atmosphere among teenagers
- Supporting our interns so they can go to WYD Spain 2011
- Good youth ministry
- Involvement of youth
- Efforts to make mass interesting and inviting to children
- Good youth mass
- Good musicians
- Youth participation at Mass

### **Youth - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- Attracting young members of the parish into ministries & take leadership roles
- WYD week involvement (6)
- WYD 2008 (Neo Catechumen Pilgrims)
- There is greater responsibility placed on young people in the parish. This will strengthen the growth in the future
- Sponsoring WYD pilgrims
- Involvement in WYD 2008
- Youth group established
- Involvement of youth – especially choir
- Setting up a youth group

### **Youth - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- To create a program that would encourage young people to become more active in their faith and engage in community activities (32)
- Lack of youth /young adults attending church (20)
- Encouragement of young people to participate in parish activities (11)
- Lack of effort to involve youth and keep them (10)
- Keeping young people interested in attending services (9)
- Lack of youth attending mass (8)
- Attracting young adults/ youth back to church (8)
- Attracting young people to ministry /church (after they have finished high school) (7)
- Need youthful functions to attract the youth back to mass – something fun for their ages (5)
- Provide opportunities for the youth to encourage their spirituality and feed their faith (4)
- Maintaining the youth/young adult age group (3)
- Need for youth minister and youth group and young adult group (3)

- No connection at all with the youth of the parish (3)
- Bringing back the young and youthful in a positive way or it won't be a healthy parish in the future (2)
- Limited numbers of children attending mass (2)
- Need thriving young adult group (this had been implemented 2yrs ago, but a promise of a paid youth coordinator never happened) (2)
- Lack of catechesis for youth and young adults (2)
- Re-establish the CYO and other church based associations (2)
- Allowing youth to take leadership roles - encourage interest and devotion (2)
- More affiliation with high school to primary school in regional areas
- Making mass more meaningful relevant to the youth and their lives (2)
- Lack of youth and their relationship with the church. Most tend to leave the church
- Later years when youth marry and have children, they want to enrol them in Catholic schools.
- Getting the youth to remain involved
- Youth are our future and no great effort is done to attract them
- Having a youth ministry
- Youth feeling connected to the parish
- Getting teenagers and early 20's to attend mass regularly and of their own accord
- Youth involvement / connections with Catholic primary and secondary schools
- Loss of youth including the parents of the school's children
- Engagement of youth – many attempts made – nothing sustainable.
- Lack of “things” for the youth and young people
- Youth are the future of the church – need to be drawn in
- How to bring back youth to the masses and church life in general
- Losing young people
- Keep the young people involved in the church
- As in all parishes the disconnection of our youth
- Develop the Christian side of the young members of our community
- Lack of young people volunteering – activities / liturgies
- Need vibrant youth group
- Lack of facilities for youth
- Increasing younger volunteers for maintenance of church and participating in special groups
- Losing young adults
- Concentrate on the teenagers
- Continuing to make liturgy real and relevant to our youth
- Teenagers not practicing their faith
- No clubs for youth – much needed
- Lack of respect mostly from youth
- More youth work – services for youth and children – making inviting for the younger population
- Have more young people involved with care of the church

- Have a working youth group that will reach out to the young (teens) that are on the fringe and don't know how to engage with the parish
- Youth/young adolescents are the key to keep the faith alive. I just don't see any avenue where it's shown to a great extent in this parish
- No youth group
- Keep children interested
- Support young people in faith
- Establish a youth group (Antioch?)
- Very few things to attract young people and very few young people attend mass.
- Masses for the youth
- No youth initiatives – Lack of leadership in this area

### **Facilities - Aspects you like about your parish:**

- Our church it is simple / nothing to distracting – beautiful (11)
- Surrounds (area which is both natural bushland and built up) (6)
- St Patrick's Asquith – true place of prayer (4)
- Use of modern technology (2)
- Renovated / refurbished church (2)
- Well kept grounds and buildings (2)
- Our lovely new pastoral centre & car park (2)
- Peace chapel Brooklyn (2)
- Both churches originally built by voluntary labour bringing the parishioners closer together (2)
- Layout of church – flowers, lighting, candles etc
- Design of St Patrick's
- Church is very open
- Parish buildings
- The building amenities
- Good parking area
- Accessible facilities
- Have 2 churches

### **Facilities/Finances - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- Upgrading of Parish buildings and car park at St Bernard's and both schools (22)
- Building and church improvements (16)
- Building of the pastoral centre at Berowra (14)
- Improvement of church grounds / upgraded the car park (8)
- Building of new pastoral office (6)
- Completion of the car park and pastoral centre (5)
- Maintain great facilities within the parish – churches and schools (4)
- Built a lovely church and school (4)
- New church has been built (3)
- Use of technology – to make attendance at initiatives more accessible eg: eConferences / Data screen etc (3)
- Brooklyn Chapel – Mass (2)
- Movement towards use of technology (eg: Website, overhead projector etc) (2)
- Renovations (2)
- Providing better car park (2)
- Atrium – Berowra – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2)
- Expanded parish buildings (2)
- New Parish office (2)
- Finding sufficient funds to maintain the church – especially the roof (2)
- Maintain excellent church building (2)
- Debt free church

- Stayed solvent and stayed “in business”
- Building & establishing of the new presbytery
- Dedication / commitment of volunteers to construct church
- Front of our church
- New statue
- Lots of building work
- We now have a parish office that is accessible to all
- Fr Denis Callahan hall and Fr Patrick McNaugh Hall
- New roof over St Patrick’s Church
- Proper parking
- Parish support (financially) is topping up school building of CLiC
- New buildings at St Bernard’s
- New driveway

**Facilities - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Parking issues (6)
- Need cushioned kneelers – especially for the elderly (Asquith) (4)
- Air conditioning not working / never on (2)
- Build a home for the aged (2)
- Cushions on pews and kneelers at Asquith (2)
- Parking facilities
- Immediate upkeep of the parish
- Easier car parking
- Accommodation for retired people
- Environmental sustainability – lights should not be on inappropriately for example
- Contract cleaner for church
- Tiles in driveway are broken
- Lighting is poor
- Structural size seems a bit small for the larger masses
- Air conditioning and heating at Asquith
- Acceptance of technology /values of the future
- Facilities need upgrading
- Roads / access to church
- Community willing to maintain the church building and grounds
- More space needed for choir
- Aging buildings
- Church should be cleaned at least twice a year by professionals
- Area where playgroup held needs to be “childproofed” – not safe enough for children to attend.

### **School - Aspects you like about your parish:**

- Schools - great (8)
- We have 2 very well run primary schools (6)
- Parish School – is an extremely important part of the sense of community ie: St Patrick’s School (5)
- Education and guidance of our children (2)
- Catholic schools and dedicated staff (2)
- School programs
- Building of a few school rooms and offices
- Detailed information of school events to involve children in the parish
- Close relationship with primary and secondary
- Nice area – affiliated with school
- St Patrick’s primary school – very dedicated parishioners

### **School - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- School improvements to Asquith & Berowra (26)
- Extensions for primary school / new hall (14)
- Good Schools - performance (10)
- Growth of School and support from this (10)
- Strong school communities that are growing (7)
- Excellent relationship with school communities (8)
- Good solid education in schools (4)
- School library (3)
- Prayers of our schools
- Primary school has good reputation (Asquith)
- Better school facilities
- Maintain schools
- Supporting St Patrick’s primary and St Leo’s education
- Building up of the schools (primary)
- More involved in organising confirmation penance for school
- Creating and expanding exceptional education and offering it to the community

### **School - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Lack of school families involved in parish activities (2)
- St Patrick’s primary does not offer any “gifted” classes for children who have above average talents
- Increase of children in our schools – need more classrooms
- Is Catholic education in schools the only main way to get children active within the parish
- Improvement in the educational standard of the parish school

- School (St Patrick's) - a bit restricted – no room for expansion
- Children's education – keeping up to date
- Better Catholic education in Catholic schools
- Catholic education that has not been diluted or weakened for financial reasons over spiritual reasons
- Need to retain children and young people – so many Catholic schools .....so few at mass; the message cannot be reaching them.
- Space /oval size at St Patrick's primary school

### **Outreach/Social Justice - Aspects you like about your parish:**

- Strong support for those in need (seniors remembered) – (2)
- Communities outreach and involvement in social issues
- Compassionate response to those in need / charitable works
- Community involvement of family groups, SVDP etc
- Effective SVDP
- Outreach focus to Sisters of Mercy Peru – Excellent
- Support projects like Candela

### **Outreach/Social Justice - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- Helping ongoing support to Sisters of Mercy (nuns) in Peru (7)
- Helping the community at Candela with donations and making a difference (7)
- Improved programs to reach out to those in need in our community (4)
- Always generous donations for a good cause - eg: SVDP Christmas appeal (3)
- Support for the needy (2)
- Good support for various appeals during the year (2)
- Generosity of parishioners – SVDP Christmas toy appeal
- Generous giving to those in need
- First to help the refugees
- Help the sick and poor
- Care of the community not just Catholic
- Refugee program from about 10 years ago
- Helping SVDP

### **Outreach/Social Justice - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Reaching out to wider community eg: homeless etc (2)
- Reaching out to those who don't attend mass regularly – especially the sick
- Active outreach along with facilities to cater for those who come
- Parish outreach through social networking
- Where is the outreach to the mentally ill? That desperately want to be connected to their parish but don't know how
- Need to stand up for the disadvantage eg: refugees
- Making sure that those who need support are identified
- Establishment of care for the aged parishioners
- Assistance to families in crisis

- Challenge of effective outreach to spread the Gospel (especially for the youth)
- We have social justice committees – need to make social justice integral to the way we live

### **Miscellaneous - Aspects you like about your parish:**

- Local (close to home) (19)
- Good location, near schools, public transport ie: train (11)
- Bishop David has a profound influence in terms of his communication of compassion, care and enthusiasm
- Don't have a regular parish – move around searching for/to be challenged about my faith and what would Jesus do in my situation – I am still searching

### **Miscellaneous - Accomplishments of your parish in the last 25 years:**

- Had a great priest a for a few years who preached the word of God straight from the bible. We joined Asquith.
- Several parishioners have acquired Theology degrees
- Spirituality – Catholic faith has not been taught well and “watered down” a softly softly approach. People are left to figure out themselves questions concerning morality.
- Synod
- Establishment of Broken Bay Diocese
- Feel like church has let my family down – children aged 22, 17 & 13 years have all left the church. Where is the pastoral care eg: priestly home visits to befriend families? Where is the teaching for the youth?
- Bishop David Walker who has endeavoured to meet the challenges of the church especially throughout so much “poor media image”, especially sexual harassment charges against some clergy.

### **Miscellaneous - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Optional celibacy – married priests (3)
- Allow priests to marry / women priests (2)
- Priests should be allowed to marry. (2)
- Reaching out to lapsed Catholics
- We need basic bible study lessons taught by priests
- Bishop Walker's spring 2010 article in BBN re: lack of seminarians and his proposed solution
- Staying relevant to families in our busy lives. Not making church another pressure to families
- The church needs to remember how incredibly difficult it is for families to juggle everything and not criticise and continually make demands on stressed family life. I think this is why families turn away.
- The creation of mechanisms to teach the proper reading for scriptures as in the protestant churches
- Liturgy that inspires – regardless of New Roman Missal
- Keeping up with changes

- Church authority is too autocratic and their message is weakened by mistakes and cover-ups. Too slow to reach bad publicity – right or misconceived.
- Issue of INCLUSIVE language for women
- Catholic church needs to review it's attitude to priests marrying – the laws re: Matrimony
- Less vocations to the religious life
- How to welcome those marginalised and excluded by the church hierarchy eg: Gays etc
- Prayer – personal/communal to lead to individual transformation to lead to transformation of society
- Return to the Gospel and teachings of Jesus to encourage us to be Christ like in the world
- More focus on the plight of third world countries and not so much focus on our needs which in most cases are well above what we need.
- Refugees!!!! More leadership on this issue by the church
- Acceptance of homosexuals
- Disenchanted with what is going on about the misconduct by priests that have been reported in the media
- Marriage – why can't we allow marriage to happen in a garden (besides church). We have outdoor masses why not a wedding mass?
- Parishioners (non-regular) who only attend mass during the holiday seasons – Easter and Christmas
- Role of women have to offer not just in support of the parish but as leaders and ordained priests
- Staying current with national and global values but true to our way
- Like to see Diocese open a trade college for senior high school students like southern cross in Sydney Diocese
- Broadening secularisation and atheism in the Australian community that isolates those who might otherwise grow naturally in faith with their families.
- Address impacts of recent global press relating to unsatisfactory behaviour of a minority religious
- Increasing secularism of our society
- Most issues affecting the parish aren't particular to the parish, they are about the church as a whole. The church has to speak more on social issues like refugees, the poor and especially the environment.
- Church not changing with the times
- Work on spreading the Love of God making the gap between the Catholic and the non-Catholic closer and non-judgemental
- Introduction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Roman Missal
- The need for more connectedness within the community. We could learn so much more from other Christian churches who foster fellowship at all levels. (This is not a unique problem to our parish, but to Catholic churches in general)
- Concerns re: decreasing number of young men entering the priesthood (aging community of priests)
- World Peace

- Acceptance of separated brethren
- More information about what is going on in world church
- How to pray for vocations as our shortage of priests is vital to all else
- Skipping homilies to fill out a survey instead
- Putting the boom gate down on communion against those “non-Catholics” despite whether they have been called by God or not. “Happy are those.....”
- To identify and recognise the importance of women on the church – ordaining women.
- Recognising all relationships within the catholic church, including same sex marriages.
- Issue of allowing clergy to marry.
- Dealing HONESTLY and OPENLY with sexual abuse of minors by priests in the past and NOT sending them to other parishes here or overseas in an attempt to cover it up. It WAS and STILL is a disgrace!!!
- Post Vatican II, Catholic adults desperately needed catechesis about their faith, especially moral theology. Today’s world is more secular than ever and even aggressive towards the church. Awareness is needed as secular values invade our political legislation. Catholics must not be a silent majority.
- Active stance against evils of society such as paedophiles
- Deep concern – feeling alienated by the changes to the mass. Catholics of earlier generations do not want to lose the words of the mass they have known and loved. Why risk alienating the Catholics the church has managed to retain?
- Ecumenism – practising Catholics married to practising Christians of other denominations that want to worship together FULLY without divisions in their family which are painful and confusing to children.
- Drawing in more “workers in the vineyard” – ordained and lay.
- Issue of overcoming apathy towards evangelisation, catechesis, instruction for all youth and adults.
- Issue of the provision of future priests per a sustainable Broken Bay Seminary (attached notes provided)

**Financial - Issues facing your parish as we look towards the future:**

- Finances / Staying financial (28)
- Financial issues maintaining both buildings/communities (6)
- Financial capabilities in the future. (money to be spent on updating uncomfortable pews, fans, better driveway) (5)
- Finances needed to fix - (Maintenance) driveway, air conditioning / fans (very hot and stuffy – especially for serving on the altar) (4)
- Rising costs of maintenance
- Attendance at mass impacting funding
- Economic and financial future ie: not rely on parishioner's money for other alternatives. Cost of living too high for people to keep giving generously, including their time.
- Funding – Catholic education for large families