

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH – PARISH COUNCIL

SYNOPSIS OF PARISHIONERS' COMMENT FOR SYNOD

- **DRAFT 1** – TOWARDS PLANNING 2012

No	TOPIC	SUBJECT	DOING WELL	FOR IMPROVEMENT
1 1.1	Spirituality	Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop and Priests (particularly Father Robert) who have served this Parish [97] • Benefit of international Priests (Father John and Father Jinto [12] • Appointment of Deacons [3] • High calibre of volunteers for Liturgies [30] • Sacramental program [17] • Opportunities for worship and maintaining spiritual connection eg daily Mass, Taize, reconciliation, Rosary etc. [24] • Accessible Mass times at weekends and on Holy Days [48] • Open air Masses [1] • Benefiting from having Parish Priest and Assistant Priest of good character and attitude, kind and understanding (particularly Father Robert) [57] • Availability of Priests in Pastoral service and Holy Communion for the sick and elderly [2] • Priest's leadership [18] • Stability of having continuity of Priest has benefited the Parish [4] • Homilies guide us, are succinct, intelligent, relevant, and aimed at appropriate level of parishioners [25] • Masses inclusive of adults and children, including Baptisms [26] • Excellent relationship between St Bernard's and St Patrick's schools and respective Churches [49] • Involvement of laity: The appointment of female Acolytes, Servers, and Readers [4] • Many young people in Parish creates a positive attitude among teenagers : Good youth ministry [6] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Priests in discipleship in the Parish [8] • Support for NESB Priests become more familiar with Australian language and culture and overcome loneliness [15] • Supporting vocational aspirations to the Priesthood [82] and Nuns [1] • Increase Deacon appointment numbers [5] • More direct involvement of Laity in the Liturgy [2] Meditation {2} More modern [1] • Attracting (English, first language) people into the Clergy [4] • Availability of plain English information on the status and innovations regarding recruitment of clergy and progress of the Churches [2] • Improve attendance at Mass [55] particularly at weekends [1] • Projection of responses and Creed during Mass on overhead [3] • Monthly expositions of the Blessed Sacrament [1] • Regular adult catechesis and more bible based homilies relevant to personal lives, addressing secular values and issues [10] • Organise prayer and active Holy help in solidarity with millions of persecuted Christians [1] • Improve hygiene – individual (Blood of Christ) 'glasses' [1] • Optional celibacy: Married and ex-Priests may be able to return to the Clergy [9] • Ordained women [3] • Need permanent Assistant Priest [2] • Divine Mercy liturgy and picture on wall [2] • Teach contemplative spirituality / meditation in schools [1] • Efforts to make Mass interesting and inviting – especially for children/youth [9] • Masses for different age groups and offer Latin Mass [5] • Fewer /No Baptisms during Mass – perhaps monthly [4] • Better and more times for Reconciliation [3] • Ecumenical services and engagement with other faiths and churches [10]
1.2		Parish Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed and caring volunteers [11] • Gift shop at the back of Church is well stocked [2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more volunteers for ministries to provide pastoral care and discipleship, to prevent burn-out of few volunteers and to replace aging volunteer parishioners [49]

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulletins well organised and informative regarding the community [4] • Catechists attending State Schools [5] • Increasing involvement in BBN, Lectio Divina [2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out - target pastoral needs of parishioners in particular the aged, sick, mentally ill, unemployed, families and individuals requiring support [42] • Grief counselling and practical assistance [1] • Involve Catholic State school children in Masses and Parish activities [2] • Follow-up and support for Eucharist ministers – regular group meetings [2]
1.2.1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music and choir (adult and children's) – good and lively – strong ministry [54] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract choristers and musicians– adult and children [3] • Improvement of quality of recorded music if used [1] and screen position [2] • Improve preparation of music/choir for Masses: reliability and liveliness [5] • Target music and activities around particular time of Mass towards age/interest – eg modern songs of worship and music [11] More space for choir [1]
1.2.2		Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed parishioners in SVDP, RCIA, Alpha group, Altar Society, Social Justice, Paddy's pre-school group, Catechists of Good Shepherd and SRE, Rosary and prayer groups [82] • School organisation of Mass and solid education for children [7] • Excellent Baptism, marriages, Sacramental program [4] • School supportive of parishioner missions [3] • Generous responses to Appeals [3] • Friendly coffee mornings after Mass [4] • Bus trip for seniors [1] • Multicultural support [2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve outreach to NESB parishioners facilitate participation in Ministries [8] • Increase attitude of celebration of sacramental program in the administration of the program to encourage ongoing participation in the Parish [1] • Forum and activities for youth of the Parish eg CYO, Antioch - Need youth worker (revise the plan from 2009) –CYO [31] • Need youthful functions to attract youth to Mass and Parish activities [138]
1.3		Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of St Vincent de Paul Society [2] • Outreach to Sisters of Mercy in Peru [2] • Support of projects such as Candela [8] • Involvement of the Aboriginal community in the ceremony that joined the Parishes into one [1] • Social networking organised and achieved [5] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and involvement in social issues [3] (eg aged to stay at home) [2] • Help for refugees and leadership from the Church (eg program from 10 yrs ago) [14] • Outreach to those marginalised and excluded by the Church hierarchy, eg gays [3] • Active stance and leadership re paedophilia in the community and misconduct in the Church [6]
2 2.1	Structure	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Parish Council [2] • Parish Office and Parish Office staff [5] • Amalgamation of 2 Parishes – working well [101] • Involvement of laity in the administration of the Parish and parish activities [3] • Use of modern technology to make initiatives more accessible [9] • Joins other churches to spread God's word eg Christmas message in local paper [2] • Well run Catholic Primary Schools [27] • Stayed solvent and keeping both churches open [1] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building closer links between communities (of churches) [3] • Expand relationship with other Parishes [1] • Vision for the future [2] Environmental sustainability [1] • Plan to increase the size of the schools given growth in population [2] • Home for retired and the Aged [3] • Catholic Secondary school in the area [1] • Initiatives to encourage next generation to take care of Parish [32] • Catechists take children during Mass to reduce distractions [3] Sunday School [1] • Church authority autocratic – cover ups – bad publicity response too slow [1]

2.2		Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peaceful and clean; Safe; Comfortable on a hot day and well maintained [19] • Parishioners able to attend churches at different times [1] • Well kept grounds and buildings in natural bushland, including schools [53] • Car park (St Bernard's) [11] • Upgrading of churches, schools and Parish Office [58] • Atrium [3] • Accessibility of churches [30] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider contract cleaners for the churches [3] Need more volunteers to maintain churches [2] • Parking at St Patrick's [6] • Need cushions for kneeling at St Patrick's [4] • Air conditioning and heating at St Patrick's [6]
2.3		Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information of events available in the Bulletin and on the Website [9] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve liaison and coordination between groups to share information [3] • Hold (6:30) Vigil earlier in winter [1] Hold early morning Mass (latest 7am) [1]
3	Community			
3.1		Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solvency [36] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find sufficient funds to maintain the churches eg the roof, driveway, school etc [12] • Cost of living too high for people to keep giving generously, including their time [4]
3.2		Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing children up in the Catholic faith is engaging and encouraging [1] • Encouraging community involvement and all ages [13] • Parishioners built both churches – forging closer ties [12] • Participation in the SYNOD [1] • Bishop and Priest have endeavoured to address the poor image of the priesthood regarding child sexual abuse [1] • Friendly and welcoming parishioners : sense of family [330] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider more social events – football matches, movie nights [4] • Welcome foreign cultures into church [2] • Opportunities for parishioners to be involved in Diocesan programs, education, etc and utilise skills and knowledge of parishioners in the Parish community [6] • Information about celebration options – eg garden weddings / wedding Mass [2] • Activities to attract people in the Parish, eg youth, to regular events [1] • More involvement of Catholic school parents in Parish activities, including Mass [22] • Identification of newcomers to the Parish and actively welcome to the Parish [14] • Need to know and see the Parish Council – more face to face contact [1]
3.3		Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Youth Days [1] • Involvement of young people in the choir [1] • Care of the wider community not only Catholics eg seniors [5] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral care – home visits from Priests [3] • Teach reading of bible [3] in Church (eg as in protestant churches) [4] • Inclusive language for women [1] • Trade school in Diocese [1]

Participation in the SYNOD 2011 -Method for synopsis conclusion:

Three hundred and thirty three (333) responses to the Synod Parish Survey conducted in February 2011 were received.

All comments on the survey (891) were listed under respective headings from the survey. Comments that were the same were recorded in brackets '()'.

Comments with the same subject matter were listed under subgroups 'Doing Well' or 'For Improvement', representing the opinions of participating parishioners. (Phase 1)

All transcribed comments from the survey were considered and Phase 1 compilations were amended to refine and ensure a representative record of responses. Responses that were similar were tallied and recorded in square brackets '[]'. (Draft 1) Responses with no subject matter, resolved matters, observations without suggestions, matters to be referred to another authority (28), were not included in Draft 1 and are listed separately in Draft 1A.