Saint Michael's Catholic Parish

12 Sproule Street - Nelson Bay 2315
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www.nelsonbaycatholicchurch.com
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
15 November 2026

We acknowledge the Worimi people – the traditional custodians of this land.

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Reconciliation:
Saturday
4.00pm - 4.45 pm
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 8.30 am

Exposition and Adoration
One Hour before Mass

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday	5.00pm
Wednesday	9.15am
Thursday	5.00pm
Friday	9.15am

NURSING HOME MASSES

Every First Thursday
10.00am Regis Aged Care Corlette.

Every Second Wednesday
10.30 am Uniting.
Muller Street
Salamander Bay

Every Fourth Thursday
10.30am Harbourside
Shoal Bay.

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr. Anthony Nguyen
Phone: 0420 401 025

PARISH DEACON:
Dcn. Gerard McCarthy

PARISH SECRETARY:
Mrs Dianne Maricic
Parish Office Hours
9.30 am to 3.00 pm
Wednesday to Friday
Phone: 0401 233 650

ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:
Ms Helen Bourne
Office: 4981 1111

COMMUNITY SAFETY AT OUR MASSES

The following information is to assist parishioners and visitors:
Face masks are available at the church entrance.
Hand sanitiser is available at the church entrance.
Holy Water is available and changed regularly.
Please take your bulletin home with you after Mass.

There are two collection plates during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The following option is available:

The First Collection supports Diocesan Clergy.
The Second Collection supports our Parish.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Communion host can be received in the hand, and on the tongue with care. Since the latter is deemed high risk, please proceed to the Priest or Deacon only and at the end of the line.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE

Those requiring gluten-free hosts should approach Deacon Gerard or Fr. Anthony after the regular Communion line has concluded to receive them directly. Consecrated gluten-free hosts will be kept in the tabernacle.

NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS

During November, we are encouraged to pray for those who have gone before us - our family, friends, and especially those who have no one to pray for them. Masses throughout the month will be offered for all those named on our special November Mass Envelopes. Please write the names of your loved ones clearly on an envelope and place it in either collection basket during Mass. November Mass Offering Envelopes is available at the entrance of the church.

MEDITATION

Christian meditation is the process in which we take time to become aware of our infinite potential in the context of the Christ event. Christian meditation is on every Friday at 10.00 am in the multi-purpose room at the back of the Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PRAYER

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil;
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
And do thou,
O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who roam the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – NELSON BAY PROMOTES SAFEGUARDING, WHICH INVOLVES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROACTIVE, COMMON SENSE AND PRACTICAL IDEAS THAT ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY. SAFEGUARDING PROMOTION: FOR ALL SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS WITHIN THE PARISH, PLEASE CONTACT: FR. ANTHONY, DEACON GERARD AND DIANNE MARICIC.

PARISH ASSEMBLY SUMMARY REPORT

Parish Assembly Summary Report available on the table at main entrance of the Church.

FORMATION FORUM – RENEWING PARISH PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

Following our Parish Assembly, Fr Matthew Muller will be presenting a 'Formation Forum' in the Parish Church at **10am on Saturday 5th December 2026**

What is governance in the Catholic Church?
What are the roles of the different councils?
How do we do it in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle?
The forum will finish at midday with a shared lunch provided.

SRE AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REFLECTION DAY WITH BISHOP MICHAEL

All are welcome to attend the SRE & Children's Ministry Reflection Day with Bishop Michael Kennedy on Thursday 17th December from 9.30am to 2pm at St. Stephen's Tea Gardens. Please register by visiting: https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/sre-childrens-ministry-reflection-daywith-bishop-michael/

GOD'S WORD REFLECTION 2027 – NOW AVAILABLE PIETY STORE

God's Word Reflection books are now available at Piety Store **$20.00 per book.** The books contain the Bible readings set down for each day of the liturgical year with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. Designed to help you keep the word of God close to your heart in daily life. A life-changing companion to nourish you, help make God's Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live and to share your faith with others.

AVALABLE FOR PURCHASE AND PAY AT THE PIETY STORE

2027 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR $10.00 EACH
CHRISTMAS CARDS – A PACK OF EIGHT (8) CARDS ARE $5.00 PER PACK

PARISH SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Report any safeguarding concerns to the office of safeguarding by calling Phone 4979-1390 or Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or via our website - officeofsafeguarding.org.au

NEXT SUNDAY
Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe
Year A

First Reading
Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17.

Responsorial Psalm
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

Gospel
Matthew 25:31-46

PRAYERS PLEASE

In your mercy, please pray for those who have died recently: **William Ball, Betty Hoskins, Rocco Ferraro** and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: **Noel Finch, Giuseppe and Maria Natoli, Coni Basile, Juan Mardo, Paul Chetcuti, Emmanuel Mifsud-Ellul** and for the sick in our parish: **James Burgos, Solomon Keys, Stephen Ogilvie, Peter Collins, Ron Finch, Damien Brinley, Robyn Harris, Lorraine McCourt, Justin Fox, Joe Garreffa, Brenda and Brian Tucker, Sarlic Trumbli, Clemente Quinajon, David Berkeley, Anna Tan, Johny and Alexander Vella and David Campbell.**

Masses will be offered on request. Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

Names on the Sick List will be removed after 4 weeks unless otherwise advised.

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Our Sunday Celebration

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time / A — **15 November 2026**

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! We all have our unique gifts and talents. When we use them well, we enrich our community. We bring joy to ourselves and to others. Let us encourage each other to develop our gifts. Then, together, we will hear our Master say: 'Well done, good and faithful servants. Come and join in my happiness forever.'

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Jer 29: 11, 12, 14

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. / You will call upon me, and I will answer you, / and I will lead back your captives from every place.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.
Give her a share in what she has worked for.

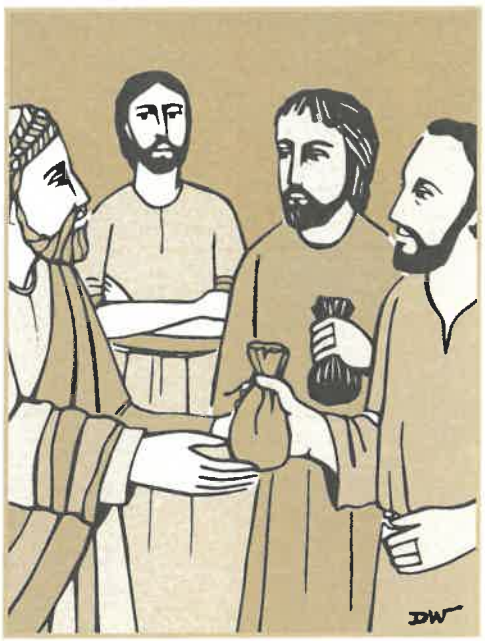
A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 127: 1-5. R. v. 1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. R.
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. R.
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. R.



SECOND READING 1 Thess 5: 1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.
The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 15: 4, 5

Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 25: 14-15, 19-21

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
Because you have been faithful over a few things: enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one: each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Longer form, Mt 25: 14-30.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer in the sight of your majesty
may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you
and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 72: 28

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE PRAISEWORTHY SERVANT

Today's Gospel focuses on a parable in which an absentee landlord entrusts five, two and one talent to each of three servants respectively. He returns later to receive the fruits of his servants' labours with their respective talents.

Because the story is quite long, we have a choice of the shorter or longer version. The shorter Gospel selection ends with the focus on the servant with the five talents who returns five more back to the master. With this truncated version, the Gospel is about success: use your talents and you will be rewarded!

The longer version of the Gospel offers a very different teaching. A talent in the ancient world was a monetary value equivalent to a year's wage. The parable is not about *personal talent* or giftedness but about the use of wealth. In the longer version, the first two servants come forward having made a profit with their wealth and are praised by the Master. The last servant to come forward returns the one talent. In a world in which there was only so much of the economic 'pie' to go around, people become wealthy at the expense of others becoming poor. In a subversive way, the last servant is most praiseworthy.

And the Master in this parable is not an image of God, rewarding those who do what is right! What Matthew depicts for us is the reality of life that continues to confront disciples: injustice still pervades relationships in a world where the wealthy get wealthier and the poor become more impoverished.

Fr Michael Trainor

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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St Michael's Parish Assembly

31 October 2026

Summary Report

40+ in attendance. (33 signed in, some arrived later for sessions two and three). Also in attendance: Fr Anthony Nguyen (Parish Priest), Fr Matthew Muller VG (presenting on parish viability), Brendan Upcroft, Manager Risk and Insurance (presenting on insurance changes), Megan Grainger, Chief Governance Officer (supportive role – available to address questions on governance and legal), and Brendon Mannyx, Mission & Evangelisation Partner (assembly facilitator).

For listening sessions one and two, there were six small groups operating with 4-6ppl in each group.

Listening Sessions One and Two used 'Conversations in the Spirit' as the tool for listening to every participant and discerning shared values and common hopes for journeying together. These conversations were framed as part of the implementation phase of the Synod on Synodality as well as a response the Bishop's Pastoral Letter calling for renewal of synodal processes and parish assemblies before the end of 2026.

The session on parish viability, finances, and insurance was presentation style followed by Q&A.

AGENDA

8am - Housekeeping and general instruction.

8.10am - Prayer and Reflection - Learning from the Emmaus Story.

8.30am - Listening Session One - Sharing Our Stories.

Share a personal story about your experience of parish life. It can come from your past or present experiences of parishes and can be either positive or challenging.

9.30am - Morning Tea.

10am - Sharing by Fr Matthew Muller VG and Brendan Upcroft on current parish finances and assets.

10.45am - Listening Session Two - Exploring our shared future.

Having listened to the stories of the community, and the current situation of the parish finances, what are our hopes and dreams for the parish moving forward?

11.45am - Final reflections and Blessing.

We listened – so what have we heard?

With approximately 40 participants in the assembly process, there was opportunity for everyone to share and reflect on their own experiences of parish life and their hopes for the future.

The second listening session asked the following questions:

Having listened to the stories of the community, and the current situation of the parish finances, what are our hopes and dreams for the parish moving forward?

What kind of parish do we hope to become?

What new possibilities excite us?

What realities require courage and honesty?

What have we heard?

What opportunities are emerging?

What should we pay attention to?

What might God be inviting our parish to become?

From across the diversity of voices, four key (related) themes emerged as shared priorities for the community:

1. **Expand possibilities of participation**

2. **Renewal of participatory (synodal) bodies such as the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council (also Liturgy, Sacraments, and Social teams).**

3. **Discernment of, and recognition of, individual and communal gifts, particularly as to how those gifts may be shared in the common mission of the parish.**

4. **Formation – with immediate priority given to formation for renewal of PPC and PFC.**

Expand possibilities of participation

"One of the main things that came up was we need more people from the parish involved."

"Collaboration and cooperation..."

"...want to be more involved but frustrated they have not been able to do so for a variety of reasons..."

"Invitation to the congregation to be more engaged in the working of the parish..."

"Build parish community through social interaction, hospitality, and active inclusion of all generations..."

In sharing these hopes, the parish reflected a reality experienced the world over as articulated in the *Final Document of the Synod on Synodality*:

> ...a desire emerged to expand possibilities for participation and for the exercise of differentiated co-responsibility by all the Baptised, men and women. In this regard, however, the lack of participation by so many members of the People of God in this journey of ecclesial renewal was a source of sadness. [36]

Renewal of participatory (synodal) bodies

"We'd like to see properly constituted Parish and Finance Councils..."

"Sacraments Team – believe we need a renewal there as well."

"Establish a Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council..."

"A liturgical committee and a social committee to implement some of the dreams and aspirations..."

The *Final Document* reflected on the renewal of synodal bodies and processes in this way:

> The way to promote a synodal Church is to foster as great a participation of all the People of God as possible in decision-making processes. If it is indeed true that the Church's very way of living and operating is synodal, then this practice is essential to the Church's mission, requiring discernment, the reaching of consensus, and decision-making through the use of the various structures and institutions of synodality. [87]

Participants also expressed a desire to gather again soon as a community to continue the conversations started. It was recognised that the current assembly was only the start of the process. There was some conversation of a team (perhaps PPC) to continue facilitating a journey of ongoing assemblies. A significant number of people expressed concern about no actions resulting from the assembly process.

Discernment/Sharing of Gifts

"There's a program called 'Called and Gifted'...can help us feel more confident and aware of what we bring into the Church..."

"...have an opportunity to share their skills... that they are invited and supported and encouraged."

Again, it is heartening that desires of the community align with that of the universal synod, as expressed in the *Final Document*:

> In the Christian community, all the Baptised are enriched with gifts to share, each according to his or her vocation and way or condition of life... The variety of charisms, which originates in the freedom of the Holy Spirit, aims at unifying the ecclesial body of Christ and promoting mission in different places and cultures. These gifts are not the exclusive property of those who receive and use them, nor are they intended solely for their personal benefit or for that of a group.... they are intended for the flourishing of the life of the Christian community and the development of society as a whole. [57]

The experience of the parish assembly also gave participants an opportunity to recognise, in themselves and in other participants, those who have the gifts for carrying these listening processes. An open invitation was made for those who might feel called to continue facilitating an ongoing process – perhaps as a call to a renewed council or a local 'synodal team.' Invitations were also extended to consider sharing their gifts with the renewed Diocesan Boards and Councils.

Formation

"The need for formation..."

"Opportunities for spiritual renewal..."

"One person spoke of a renewal program..."

Having access to more formation was an underlying hope expressed in parallel with those articulated above. Formation was seen as a necessary part of renewing structures and processes, and perhaps the best next step in the parish journey. This need for formation was expressed in the *Final Document*:

> Formation is needed in order to engage in decision-making processes grounded in ecclesial discernment and which reflect a culture of transparency, accountability, and evaluation. The formation required is not only technical; it also needs to explore theological, biblical and spiritual foundations. All the Baptised need this formation in witness, mission, holiness and service, which emphasises co-responsibility. [80]

Recommendations

Moving to Action and Next Steps

In response to the voices at the assembly, Fr Matthew Muller has already suggested a **Formation Forum** at 10am – midday on **Saturday, 5th December** on the topic of renewing Parish Council structures and participatory bodies. This formation would position the community well to begin taking expressions of interest from the community with a view to forming their councils early in 2027.

These councils/teams would take up responsibility for continuing the work of this assembly in according to their respective functions.

Addendum

Many voices, shared experiences

While the above synthesis brings into focus the top priorities of the community that were expressed at the end of the process, there was a wealth of data gathered through the listening sessions and written submissions that could inform the pastoral planning of the community at a future date. Some of the shared themes could assist the setting of an agenda for a second assembly.

The following data was drawn from the responses to the first listening session:

What has been your experience of parish life?

Share a personal story about your experience of parish life.

It can come from your past or present experiences of parishes and can be either positive or challenging.

What have we heard?

What is emerging among us?

What themes are becoming clear?

Opportunities to share faith

People mentioned:

- Giving testimonies
- Bible studies and small groups
- Passing faith on to children

Renewed Ministries

People mentioned:

- Children's Liturgy (for and against)
- Formation
- Hospitality
- Altar servers
- Sacraments
- Outreach to families
- Baptism preparation
- Liturgy group
- Programs for youth
- Welcoming

Leadership

People mentioned:

- Inclusive leadership
- Collaborative leadership
- Shared leadership
- Effective administration/communication
- Support team around Parish Priest

Celebrating Sacraments

People mentioned:

- Communion under both species
- Homilies
- Formation for readers
- Celebration of feast days
- Reestablish choir
- Music
- Adoration and availability of reconciliation – 'life changing'

Sorrow over what's missing

People mentioned:

- Missing generations
- Lack of participation
- Lack of social spaces
- Lack of community
- Lack of structure

Parish Renewal

People mentioned:

- Refreshed evangelisation
- The ALPHA Course, Symbolon
- Parish – an opportunity for growth
- Adopt a parish renewal program