

FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE

Outcomes of parish meetings held in June 2015

Three parish meetings were held in June. Those attending divided into groups and were asked to discuss the question "What would you like the worshipping community to be like during the next 15 years?"

Each group had a sheet of paper with the FTIH tree printed on it along with a large number of 'leaves' on which to write their thoughts and comments. The leaves were then attached to the tree poster. These comments and thoughts have been taken and analysed to fit (as nearly as possible) under the main headings that make up the FTIH tree.

Some of these comments are easily self explanatory while others would seem to need further detailed explanation to fully give the benefit of what the contributor had in mind. These comments might also inspire ideas in you, the reader, and therefore we would invite you all to put your thoughts in writing and submit them to the parish representatives via the box at the back of each church. We thank you in advance for becoming involved in this positive and essential initiative in our diocese.

WORSHIP / SPIRITUAL LIFE

St Marys responses

Other themes to celebrations and worship to welcome back "drifters"

Range of Music

Accessible prayers using accessible language

Evangelical welcome

Reverence instilled in children would make families become stronger in future years

Immaculate Heart responses

Services more attractive to youth

St Philip's responses

More lively music

Technology friendly (e.g. streaming masses)

More laity involvement / laity led services

Open air masses

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE

St Marys responses

More lay participation

Prayers by aged that they can contribute to the parish

Involved - all people have a purpose

Immaculate Heart responses

More involvement of lay people

Better training and information for lay people to encourage more involvement

More social activities

St Philip's responses

More inclusive, approachable

More social community events

More lighthearted.

EDUCATION AND CONTINUING FORMATION

St Mary's responses

Open hearts and minds

Valuing gifts and strengths of our community and tapping into our talents.

Reintroduce catechism

OUTREACH

St Mary's responses

i.e Churches together

Wider organisations = Faith in action

Reach out to local community

Viewed as a welcoming family - welcoming to all

Immaculate Heart responses

Support for the elderly through prayer

St Philip's responses

Take the church faith out to the people (in the streets / celebrity involvement)

YOUNG PEOPLE

St Marys responses

Not necessarily children - teenagers, 20-3

Engage young people- extend vibrancy of school families into parish life

Engage with youth

Joining the dots between age brackets, how do we bridge the gap?

Attract young people - don't know how

Youth club for teenagers to involve young people

Youth club with session of prayer and monthly mass.

Inmaculate Heart responses

More activities for young people

Encourage young people to take a more active part in the mass

St Philip's responses

Ways to encourage young people and children / more family orientated

Closer links with parish and school

LEADERSHIP

St Mary's responses

Lay people taking more responsibility

Empowering lay people

Clergy changes

CHRISTIAN PAITHFUL

St Mary's responses

Dispelling stigma

Women priests (x2)

Married priests (x2)

Active social / parish life - events, groups

More priests - deacons, lay people

Immaculate Heart responses

Other ways of recruiting to priesthood

Married priests

More permanent deacons

St Philip's responses

Female priests / married priests

FINANCES

St Mary's responses

Buildings used for wider community to generate income

St Philip's responses

Dedicated business manager (reduce admin work for the priest)

Parish transport "Mass Bus"

GEOGRAPHIC DISTANCE

St Mary's responses

Fewer churches, mass times, not as many p.p's

FACILITIES

St Mary's responses

Open churches

Immaculate Heart responses

Better use of church buildings

St Philip's responses

Better / more varied use of church buildings