



KERANG · COHUNA · PYRAMID HILL  
CATHOLIC PARISHES

## Plenary Council Responses 2019 Kerang, Cohuna and Pyramid Hill Catholic Parishes



### **Younger Generation and Young Families**

The Church is good, we just need to get the young families to come to Mass and be part of our parish community. How? Do we get them involved in the parish community first and then Mass will follow?

To encourage the young especially the Grades 4, 5 and 6 children to take over the singing at mass and sing some of those great hymns they learn at school. This does put pressure on the staff for preparation of the children; allow parishioners with WWCC and teaching abilities to assist with this ministry

Have Youth Masses; encourages the young families.

Have Church celebrations appealing to the new generation - Mass with youth, music and musicians.

Do we need to use other venues for Church celebrations? Can Mass be celebrated in a hall or a park if it encourages the young families to attend? Can marriage be held in a garden if it increases the number of young people to get married in a venue of their choice? Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them"

Young families need stimulation, more modern music and involvement on their level or is it too late?

Modern Music (such as Fr. Rob galea's)

Many of the younger generation feel strongly about social justice and I suppose this is their way of Church without the formalized gathering.

### **Ecumenism**

Worshipping with other denominations more frequently. We are achieving this with the Week of Christian Unity, public Stations of the Cross, World Day of Prayer

Gathering of all the churches to bring youth back.

## Changes to Consider

Some things need to be changed to adapt to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Church needs to adapt to the society of today. To compete with shops being open, sports being played, people working on Sundays and other entertainments.

- Does the church need to explore the digital means of communication more?
- Need for youth work groups especially in communities where young people are not attending Mass or parish events.

Music draws people in.

Keep Mass times within the hour.

The church needs to be relevant to people in our society, our time. One reason people do not attend Church regularly is because the version of the Mass that we celebrate can be very boring and uninteresting and uninspiring.

Is the formality of the Mass irrelevant to meet modern needs? Some readings and commentary need to reflect on historical events, should reflect the events of our society at present in this week relating to our daily lives.

Start the Mass with shared food and a chance to socialise, get to know each other and then pray together. 'Come and See' type Masses.

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## Tradition

A return to Magisterium as codified in the Catechism.

Consistent Catechesis of the Church

Confusion around teachings and practices of the Church

A return to the traditional values and practices.

Small churches struggling financially while the Catholic Diocese accumulates great wealth.

- What about more support for the parishes?

Bring back traditions like Rosary, Benediction, Novena to Our Lady and procession for Corpus Christi:

- Enjoyable past experiences that shaped our faith, but probably not appealing to the younger generation.

Why can't reconciliation be the third rite where all parishioners can receive the sacrament as a group? This may be more time effective for the priest and bring back that sacrament- very few people use this sacrament now, and to encourage its reception we need to change the approach.

Why were some Holy Days of Obligation discarded?

## Clergy

Clergy needs to be seen among the people more.

Need for consistency when a priest takes over a parish that is working well.

I have been concerned over the time that the Parish Priest has full control over all aspects of the parish. I think the priest should implement the service that the parish wants with full consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council.?

Vestments? Man-made rules? married priests - Do we need them?.

Answer real questions about life and how the scriptures could be of use to me in today's world.

When I was in the primary school, I found the Catholic Church to be boring and dry. Everyone who did the readings were like robots performing their duty. The priest always seemed too busy and unapproachable to ask real questions about life and how the scriptures could be of use to me in today's world. I don't think the priest even knew I existed. The popular "IN" families were noticed and got all the attention, having meals together all the time and hanging out.

We need practical, relevant advice from the clergy and the people of the Church.

Do we need to consider all parishes having acolytes? These could be women as well as men, who assist in all areas of Church life except administering those sacraments that only priest can preside over e.g. reconciliation. Priest and religious numbers are decreasing; can parishioners take over some of their former roles?

Can Acolytes be given approval, blessings etc to perform baptisms, marriages? We are short of priests especially in very small parishes and country towns.

Married clergy; is it time for this? Other Churches have married clergy and their parishes work. There will be those who agree and those who disagree but are we at a time where this need consideration? VAT II was a huge change to the church- English instead of Latin Masses, priest facing the people, women allowed on the altar, parishioner involvement (readers, commentators) instead of altar boys and nuns doing all the work, and as the number of parishioners is decreasing, especially the young families, we need a positive change

Clergy need to show that they live their life, faithful to the vows they made at their ordination.

Stop moving the priests around every couple of years. Priests are like doctors- we need to build up a relationship with them, to develop trust. They're an important part of every family. There is no greater comfort than having trusted and familiar priest amongst family and friends when a loved one is lost.

Why is it that priests are not able to marry?

No celibacy

Empower lay people for service because we may not always have a resident priest.

Ministry of lay women.

## **Promote Values**

Church needs to get back to the basics- promote the gospel values.

Put some emphasis on the teachings of God: like love, respect as these are the qualities we now need more of in our communities. The younger generation is not as interested in the life of Jesus as told in the Bible.

Visitation to the sick and the lonely need to happen as part of the routine the Parish. Our Church should include everyone.

Do we need to be more accepting of gay and lesbian relationships? As we are all God's children, are these people to be treated differently because they don't fit what used to be considered the 'norm' of society. They need to be welcomed, accepted and encouraged just as the Church does for all its parishioners.

The church needs to be HONEST.

A Church which always encourages but never forces participation.

## **Catholic School**

To see the Catholic School part of the Catholic Church.

To expose the kids more in the Church activities and their families.

Make the Mass more inviting but not changing the structure of the Mass.

We need to have more School-Church events.

Maybe a Sunday evening Mass with supper once a month may help get more families to attend. Hoping to introduce this with the 'Come and See' Masses

Confirmation and first Eucharist are important steps in the development of our children. Why not the church introduces a covenant (or agreement) requiring parents to bring their children to Mass for a certain period? The privilege should come with some responsibility, not simply go through the preparation, have the ceremony and then have an ongoing attendance by either parents or children. If they don't intend attending Church, why confirm the child?

## Issues

To see the Catholic Church officially allow divorced people to receive the Eucharist. They need it to sustain themselves in their troubling times.

Tribunals are expensive, invasive and can cause great pain. Getting a divorce is humiliating and devastating, as is the guilt of it; feels soul destroying. The Church should embrace these wounded souls.

Is Sunday morning only the time for Mass? Currently as we share Father with 2 other parishes, this what we ach offer

Because of the issues that we have in the Church, we need to trace back our canon laws of celibacy and male only clergy. These laws are not divine, they are man-made traditions and are rightly laughed off as "sick" by most young people today.

To clear the stand of the church regarding ABORTION, EUTHANASIA, ON CONTRACEPTION, on the ROLE OF WOEMEN IN THE CHURCH (ordination), on PRIESTS MARRIUAGE and on SAME SEX MARRIAGE

- How can the Church- which talks about compassion- be so against people choosing to end their life in the face of a terminal illness and unbearable suffering?
- How can the church decry contraception in parts of the world like Africa when it knows full well the impact in terms of the transmission of HIV/AIDS?
- How can the Church tell women what to do with their bodies- particularly dealing with a pregnancy brought about by rape? On what basis do the leaders of the Church get to make these decisions?

Respect on same sex *couples attending Mass and Marriage*

The Church hierarchy needs to be honest.

What processes and procedures are being considered by the Church to ensure that we never have a repeat of the child sexual assault scandals (which will harm the church's reputation for years to come)?

The Church needs to make a public apology for their sins in regard to sexual assault.

The church needs to better explain its rules and regulations so the layman can understand.

Be responsible for our actions. Compensate all abuse victims without loading the general parishioners