

Summary Key Points

The approach adopted involved, pulpit presentations, get togethers over tea and coffee after mass, parish meeting (other small groups arranged by individual parishioners).

There were 49 returns provided within the parish, various verbal comments from parishioners and views have been expressed as well, comments were received from the after-Mass tea and coffee meetings and from the organised evening parish meeting. All of these comments have provided the overall summary and the consolidated return.

All individual “You Will Be My Witness Parish Consultation Questionnaires” have been submitted to the Diocese separately so that the Diocese is aware of the individual comments made.

The following three themes were mentioned across the different areas.

1. That the Diocese needs to bolder and braver and adopt a lay led model (rather than clergy led). The model needs to be inclusive of all, harness the diverse nature of our community and actively support all aspects of parish and local community life. This requires the Diocese to provide the necessary training and on going formation to ensure properly trained individuals are able to fulfil the roles they commit to. Key roles should be paid roles. Roles should be consistent and clearly defined across the Diocese. Concerns were expressed how we support our schools, encourage our school communities to become more active and also encourage the young (under 30's) .
2. Anyone who after discernment has a vocation to the priesthood or diaconate must be allowed to and be fully supported in fulfilling that vocation. There was a strong feeling across all areas under consideration that the time has come for the ordination of women priests and deacons; married Catholic men to be allowed to become priests and consideration be given to those who would be willing to work part time in the commercial world and also give their time on a part time basis to the priesthood (supported by a sound pastoral area lay model and structure).
3. Communication must be open, transparent, and consistent. Clear and unambiguous messages, with language that is easily understood, using modern communication media are required. There is a requirement for consistent use of the technologies and methods across the whole of the Diocese with standard infrastructure and systems e.g. the current web site is not easy to navigate and should be replaced with a single easy to navigate and accessible web site. Visibility of what is happening across the Diocese is required. Some systems and approaches within the Diocese do not make it easy to move matters forward in a timely and effective manner.