

# **St Augustine's Church Synodal Pathway Synthesis**

## **What for you are the strengths of the parish:**

Strength of the community; our priests; nice atmosphere; church open; friendly and helpful parishioners; regular mass services; two catholic primary schools; broad age range; choir and folk group; ethnic diversity; great church premises; house calls and support in difficult times.

## **What for you are the weaknesses of the parish:**

More engagement of the young and more help for the young to keep their faith alive; more altar servers; no SVP group; parish is too inward looking and should evangelise by communal actions; negative impact of covid rules on attendance and parish activities; same people doing all the volunteering jobs; adverse effect of bad publicity surrounding Catholic Church; lack of interaction with new parishioners; not enough engagement with wider community; more opportunity to give our views; not enough done for those who are lonely or housebound; lack of community; no activities after mass.

## **What would you like to see most changed in our parish:**

Making the church and its activities more relevant to people's everyday lives; restart coffee after mass; rebuild our community; grow our solidarity with Churches Together; more patience and tolerance; Justice and Peace issues as well as climate change discussed; Church Council; live streaming of masses; availability of bibles and a separate prayer room; more religious activities; faith sharing groups; religious days out; more participation by children and youth in the mass; children friendly masses; RCIA for parish; return of the Reconciliation service as opposed to individual confession; better sound system; more ringing of church bells; more participation by congregation, especially the young, in the mass service.

## **How has the pandemic affected your faith:**

Many people took the opportunity to reflect on their Faith. For the most part it reaffirmed their Faith. Services on line opened a new dimension with ability to choose where to attend mass. The normality and simplicity of services on line was comforting. The lockdowns encouraged parishioners to get in touch on line but many missed the Community worship.

## **If the parish offered you more support, what could it be:**

More spiritual activities; more opportunity to learn, explore, share our faith; more prayer groups; stream the mass; refresher on the basics of our faith, sacraments and mass. More activities, especially for the elderly. More knowledge of what support is available.

## **Are there any gifts and talents that you have and would like to offer in support of the Church's mission:**

Help with communal sharing of the faith; prayer ministry; help with youth club; fundraising; singing; marriage preparation and support; offer of lift to church; listening to people; RCIA; help with first Holy Communion classes; health and safety guidance; garden work.