

Parish Zoom Meeting 2 Summary – Developing our Parish Mission Together – 8 June 2021 v2

Overall outcome of the Zooms to develop our understanding of what St Barts is aiming to do through its Mission of Evangelisation and to involve parishioners in both the conversation and in defining our focus. Zoom 2 was designed to build on inputs from Zoom 1, including a look in more detail at those areas deemed critical by parishioners who attended.

Re-cap on Fr Francis' perspective on why a Parish Mission of Evangelisation?

All institutions need a goal. The Church is a Divine institution with God at our centre. He came to reveal our goal which is to be in eternity. He commands us to share His love with others.

We are aiming for a vibrant parish where all feel welcome and included, with a variety of types of worship and prayer, opportunities for spiritual development for adults and children and a range of social events which enabling unity and building of friendships and support for each other. We will also look outside the parish so we are inclusive and welcoming in the local community.

What does Evangelisation mean for St Barts and how will we plan to deliver this Mission?

- Togetherness - all actively involved in parish activities and supporting each other
- All looking to develop and learn more about our faith and the use of prayer
- Looking outside our parish too, into our local community and sharing what we have (our faith) with others
- We plan to deliver our Mission through involvement in the 5 interlinked, focus areas: Building Community, Youth, Spirituality, Ecumenism & Social Justice.
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Re-cap on Paul O'Connor's view of becoming a "missionary disciple" at St Barts (see Zoom 1 summary also)

The term becoming a "missionary disciple" is the Pope's mission. Embrace everyone, share God's love with everyone. Matthew 15, 13-16 re "Salt and light" is a good analogy. Discipleship is part of community. People are attracted by light. It is Christ among us.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven!.

Inputs from 3 groups on 8 June each covering one topic

These inputs build on the outputs from Zoom 1 where two areas were identified as critical by those attending i.e. Building Community and Youth

Group1 – 6 current proposals for Building Community were shared and endorsed. Inputs:

- **More social activities including post-mass activity** - with displays from parish group activities/things of interest to the parishioners regarding the parish/relevant local/Catholic church activities/information.
- **Parish newsletter/Communication**– make some improvements to the weekly newsletter; better advertising of events and tea and coffee after mass. Could include more of what the clergy/ministries/catechists are doing, what is going on – a little more some pictures/illustrations. We recognise that the weekly newsletter's purpose is a short document giving immediate news/upcoming events and that we also now have a new, quarterly publication "St Barts Together " which gives more opportunity for some commentary, reporting on parish events as well as articles from parishioners. All ideas and articles welcomed.
- **Welcoming ministry** – this is considered a key ministry. The Building Committee group is leading on this more 1-1 contact/relationship building/finding out about family and names/genuine conversation that builds early but important foundations. It would also be helpful if they were able to encourage the various forms of

- The focus on **pastoral elements** within Building Community, supporting each other. How is this actually being done day to day at St Barts, do we need more infrastructure eg a pastoral network to make sure all those in need of support/friendship are being contacted at least once per month? The SVP is the main group delivering this support currently within the parish and to individuals outside the parish itself along with Fr Francis, Deacons Justin and Paul. Reflect and consider what we define as “pastoral care” going forward, after the pandemic. **This is the responsibility of all parishioners.**

Group 2 - Youth – 7 ideas from PPC Youth Group (across 3 age ranges) were shared, discussed, built upon. Inputs:

- Get young people involved in the mass eg reading
- Continue to find out what the young people want
- Build a close relationship between St Barts and surrounding Catholic schools, particularly, St Adrians.
- Hold a (potentially) monthly mass for young families. Invited after mass to come back for tea and coffee. Safe space.
- Teenage mass followed by youth club. Idea is to get secondary school children between 11-17 to be involved in mass. Very important to engage them with a Social/youth club idea - pizza night, table tennis tournaments with trophy involving other churches, rounders outside. Get to know people their own age. Needs helpers (DBS holders)
- Christmas Eve - drinks after the children’s mass. Church is always buzzing on Christmas Eve. Get young school children to do the reading or a nativity or the music to get them actively engaged in mass so they want to come back again.
- “Prayer and pint”. Get people who are about to go off to Uni to engage with other young Catholics. Find local people going to similar universities.
- Prayer garden. A quiet place with seating and which is open, where people can go and pray when the church is closed. This will be our priority and planning is underway including for the first family mass to be held in it.
- Perhaps join up with another parish. Work together rather than both trying to create things. St Alban & St Stephen is going to employ a paid, experienced youth worker. Might be worth investigating if this person can help us too if we provide some financial support.
- Use the resources we have available to us eg SPEC - now based in Pinner. Can be used as a residential centre or one day events. St Barts uses it for our Confirmation group.. Every parish pays toward this purpose-built centre with great facilities and we should make use of it. Also the Zion community in Brentwood. All of these resources could be advertised used, drawing on connection with Westminster diocese.
- Children to design St. Bart’s Christmas/Easter cards for the parish

Group 3 How could we build on the strengths of our parish to deliver this evangelising mission? (see Zoom 1 summary also). Inputs:

- Share what all our groups are doing (being planned for Sept 5 BQQ and Parish Groups Event)
- Encourage wider involvement through sharing that we are a “family” and, as such, this requires the whole community to commit/participate in the family
- Undertake a parish survey with the dual aims of confirming what people would expect from the parish and asking how they will get involved to deliver this for our the parish family/community
- Seek to build in some succession for some of our existing groups

Those who have not been able to attend a Zoom call, please join us on Sunday 11 July 2021 at 11.45 am – 1.00 pm in the parish hall and gardens for a meeting, with some refreshments. This will include a short recap, an opportunity for any questions and then into small group, so bring your thoughts and let’s continue develop our future plans together.

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