

Combined points from Parish Survey and Synodal Pathway that are specifically about St Barts

Discussed and updated on 26/3/2022 at Parish Pastoral Council Awayday

**** already doing this or planned**

Building Community

1. Welcoming – new families, those with disabilities, travelling community, marginalised Catholics e.g. divorced, LGBT+, lunch for new parishioners from the last 5 years,
2. Support each other through social media - email groups, WhatsApp groups, regular phone calls, Facebook, a buddy system for new parishioners, the elderly, infirm, bereaved and other new approaches.
3. The social side – looking out for people, building friendships. More fundraising events of a social nature needed. Multicultural meal.
4. Coffee is only offered after 10.30 Mass, but the 8.30 group would like this as a way to get to know other parishioners, (Volunteers needed) **
5. Mass is our main form of worship, but we could have other services and events eg a concert, Songs of Praise, maybe in the hall.
6. We have a good range of parish groups and activities, but more information should be shared about them, perhaps by each of them speaking about their work after Mass **. Quarterly we could have a list of groups in the *St Barts Together* publication to tell parishioners what is going on.
7. A structured growth which sees our parishioners taking on activities after the sacraments of first Holy Communion, Confirmation and Holy Matrimony – growing in active participation in our liturgies and parish activities (volunteers needed)
8. Live streaming of Masses from St Barts

Ecumenism

1. If the most pressing social issues are poverty, lack of community, and loneliness then we should build on our current support for the local food banks. We could also approach our ecumenical friends, and the local council, to help foster community; we could open up our own social events to 'outsiders'
2. Good Friday Walk of Witness, joint carol services, Unity service in January**
3. Promote Friday Mass in Abbey and talks and meetings in the Abbey
4. Inter-church families – ensure they are comfortable about receiving or not receiving the sacraments
5. Learning from each other, understanding more about what we have in common as Christians and doing things jointly to make a larger impact in sharing the Word.

Social Justice

1. Outreach - "We should be more welcoming to different people. The local church doesn't reach out enough to the local (non-Catholic) community, and very little is done for the disadvantaged in our immediate non-Catholic community."
2. Finds ways to serve the wider community, eg supporting organizations that work to alleviate poverty.

3. Several activities and opportunities to volunteer that had lapsed were mentioned (eg lunch club, Fair Trade stall, providing lifts to Mass) but parishioners needed to be encouraged to get involved and to share their skill and enthusiasms in the current activities (volunteers needed).
4. Promote Credit Union Community Bank – a founder member 20 years ago is a parishioner and several others involved from St Bart's.
5. Support local food banks
6. Support the asylum seekers at the Noke Hotel **
7. Support charitable giving e.g. Cafod, Aid to the Church in Need, Mary's Meals, Water Aid and local charities who help single mothers, homeless, elderly living on their own etc.**
8. Re-instate Christmas for Someone Else, linked to a poor parish in London
9. Continue with focus on climate change- sustainability e.g. consider solar panels on church roof (long-term)

Spirituality

1. Providing a space for individuals from outside the congregation to explore Christian spirituality without the constraints of formal acts of worship – including, for example, discussion or quiet contemplation
2. Days of recollection and services in addition to the Mass (whilst recognising demands and limits for our clergy). Half-day retreat? Would be nice to have a Parish day eg. preparation for Lent and Advent or a special feast. Could be daytime Saturday and finish with 18:00 mass include music.
3. Training and development (long-term) - Visiting speakers on key themes - especially in key seasons, continually important-we must not be too busy to pray or develop our spiritual lives eg Cathedral has a lot of good courses open to all, adult catechism to learn more about our Faith, talks and discussions eg Newman Society
4. More promotion of small groups as a way of building the community and spiritual life of the parish, e.g. Bible study group to prepare Sunday meaning, prayer groups -in person or prayer sheet on Parish website for special feasts
5. Annual re-commissioning of Special Ministers of the Eucharist, liturgists, readers, altar servers etc. at beginning of Mass on appropriate days eg: Corpus Christi -a chance to show gratitude and applaud their commitment, but need to check who is still willing to take on these roles **
6. Work with Churches Together in St Albans **
7. More creative, all senses, immersive e opportunities for parishioners of all ages to re-engage with the Spirit, in the charismatic style
8. Encourage readers to join together eg reflection afternoon (beware too long a session as people won't come)
9. Reconciliation days with varying targeted themes

Youth

1. Youth – children's Mass, Youth Club for post Communion and post Confirmation groups, Involve children more in the liturgy as musicians, readers, welcomers-they are the future of the church
2. Re-establish the children's library post Covid
3. Greater links with SS Alban and Stephen – clergy to meet regularly and coordinate events, especially for youth. SPEC and youth worker

4. Music - We need variety in church services eg folk music, music group, band, children's choir. Leaders needed, but ask.
5. Date to start Children's Liturgy again (*Volunteers needed*)
6. Encourage altar servers again **
7. Restart 16:00 Family Mass-this is a wonderful opportunity to involve families with young children in the Mass.
8. Strengthen link to St Adrian's School**(16 October event planned as part of 60 Anniversary
9. Engagement with local Easter pilgrimage ending at the Abbey
10. Empower the youth in the church, give them responsibility like cleaning and tidying up after Mass
11. Create a youth choir/musical group-we have many gifted young people in the parish

Other activities (volunteers needed)

1. Maintenance Committee e.g. gardening, fire wardens, Finance Committee, money counters

