



Parishes of  
Greystones  
& Kilquade

# Building Hope Feedback Report

During the month of June, parishioners in the Greystones and Kilquade Pastoral Area, responded to Archbishop Dermot Farrell's Building Hope Pastoral Strategy. This is the Diocesan process for Pastoral renewal.

Parishioners gathered and had some discussion. The outcomes were recorded.

This leaflet presents what was recorded by those who engaged in the process.

*"I am therefore inviting each parish community, as part of our Building Hope strategy, to begin to reflect on how best to respond to the pastoral situation in which we find ourselves. It is very clear that the future will not look like the past.*

*Our world has changed: we cannot return to the past.*

*God is bringing forth something new (see Isaiah 43:19).*

*Our challenge – and it is ours – rather than simply reacting to events, is to shape the future in the light of the gospel."*

*(Living the Hope of Easter: Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Pastoral Letter, Easter 2022)*

The **Framework for Pastoral Renewal** was created by the Building Hope Task Force.

This framework was used to have dialogue about the things that people valued in their own faith communities.

Our Pastoral Area of Greystones and Kilquade began this dialogue in June.

We gathered in small groups as a community centered on the person of Jesus. There were four areas for discussion:

***Faith, Servant Leadership, Welcome and Social Justice***

We were asked to consider the following questions within each of the above areas:

***What is working well in your parish? Why?***

***What is in need of development? In what way?***

Read on to see the areas highlighted through our Pastoral Area dialogue.

## FAITH

### *What is working well in your parish? Why?*

Many parishioners expressed a love of the Eucharist, and how important it is in their lives: giving them solace and comfort.

Many expressed gratitude for the number, variety and frequency of Mass times. Ruah/Irish/Latin/Deaf. The use of technology kept us connected during COVID, and it's continued use is important.

Lay led prayer initiatives are very positive for many people.

The Sacramental Preparation programmes for Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage are positive developments in faith formation.

People engaged in the Alpha faith formation programmes gained a greater appreciation of their faith, and felt it was a positive experience.

### *What is in need of development? In what way?*

Restart the Children's liturgy. Consider Sunday school approach to faith formation as schools no longer provide it.

Post sacramental faith formation – particularly after Confirmation to bridge the gap between teen aged years to young adulthood.

Encourage parents to be involved in meaningful ways in their childrens' faith formation with support from the church.

Coming together in a community of prayer is valuable for faith formation. Encourage those who have not returned post COVID, to return in person, to church participation.

The development of more non-Eucharistic liturgies e.g., blessing of pets, local pilgrimage walks, Mass rock, cemeteries blessing.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### *What is working well in your parish? Why?*

Schools for Syria, SAAS (Support An African Student), St. Vincent de Paul, and Two Coats initiatives work well. They demonstrate social justice engagement by people and solidarity with those in need.

Commitment to bringing Eucharist to parishioners in care homes and to the housebound are good examples of accompaniment and solidarity.

### *What is in need of development? In what way?*

Need to better prepare groups to support, show solidarity with, and accompany others in times of need, e.g., refugee and homeless.

Creating ways where young people can help the not so young e.g., helping with technology.

Developing and maintaining youth led active outreach groups with youth involvement e.g., Transition Year (4th year) students

Care of creation to start with small initiatives at the local level e.g., wild-flower garden – ideal for intergenerational involvement.

Reconvene Bethany bereavement and lay led funeral ministry groups.

Active outreach to marginalised groups e.g., divorced & separated Catholics; members of the LGBT community; to assure them that there is room for them in the Catholic church.



## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

### *What is working well in your parish? Why?*

Our Priests are great examples of servant leadership, they are trusted, respected and cherished within our faith community.

Lay led ministries are excellent examples of how we currently share responsibility with our priests.

How we reach out, communicate via webpage and e-newsletter, to our community are popular and important in keeping parishioners connected.

Women play an important role in all the lay ministries in the Pastoral Area.

### *What is in need of development? In what way?*

To share responsibility with priests, continue the development of lay leadership of ministries and working in teams.

Recognise the limitation of the number of priests. Give them the support they need to be Ministers not administrators.

Youth need a special focus: encourage greater youth involvement in all ministries across the Pastoral Area.

The role of women throughout the hierarchy of the church urgently needs to be broadened/strengthened to allow full participation within our church across all roles and ministries.

Explore ways to reach people who feel excluded or disconnected because of their life circumstance.

The reintroduction of printed newsletters for those who live an off-line life.



## WELCOME

### *What is working well in your parish? Why?*

Our Welcome and Hospitality ministry at Mass which has grown through COVID is very positive and well received.

Soup and Sandwiches is recognised as a community and hospitality activity within the Pastoral Area.

The website and e-newsletter contribute to keeping us informed.

### *What is in need of development? In what way?*

Further build on welcome and hospitality to increase a sense of community and inclusiveness.

The need to communicate and welcome back those who feel marginalized by the Church.

Through living out our faith by our behaviours, actions and in our families, we can motivate and inspire others to become involved in ministries and faith community.

To be proud Catholics and not be afraid to get our message out there that we are a welcoming community.

The Summer Barbeque was a great success and should be reinstated.

## ***Moving Forward as a Pastoral Area***

As individuals, and in the faith communities that we build together, we are called and empowered “to act with resolve and become more fully a place of welcome and compassion, which embodies the power, hope and joy of the Gospel.”

The Archdiocese is creating opportunities for parishes to collaborate and share in parish partnership. It is focusing on strengthening the ability of parishes, rooted in their own communities, to be part of the change and pastoral care into the future.

*“Encounter with the person of Jesus makes us who we are, and shapes what we do. Being at the service of this encounter is the heart of our mission.”  
(Extract from the Archdiocese Statement of Mission)*

The responses from Building Hope offers the Pastoral Council for the Pastoral Area direct insight to what is important to build up our faith community. This group, with the advice and support of Fr. John and Fr. Gerard, is prioritising the issues which have been identified. They are working to develop concrete and realistic strategies that addresses the concerns and suggestions highlighted by the Building Hope initiative.

The Pastoral Council has responsibility to reflect, reach conclusions and advise on all things pertaining to pastoral works, to promote them and to propose practical actions and activities.

We all as a community implement these actions.

Some areas highlighted in the responses are decisions that can only be taken at the Vatican and Diocesan level for example: the role of women in ministries throughout the hierarchy of the church. With enormous gratitude, the vital and essential contribution of women involved in many lay ministries is acknowledged. Their involvement is critically important to and enhances the success of these ministries. Their Servant Leadership is a blessing to us all.

*Building Hope*



The Pastoral Council will work to support and implement pastoral renewal as guided by your responses. Some work is already underway.

We request your prayers and your support as we all continue this process.

Thank you.

November 2022.