

## **'Put Out Into Deep Water'**

Feedback from the Clane and Rathcoffey Parish Reflection - 18/10/22  
(listed as received)

- A felt sense of loss in how the impending changes will affect traditions and rituals that have been in place for years and which have structured and defined ways of life e.g. weekday masses.
- A feared loss in the sense of community given the dilution that might be caused by spreading out.
- There is a sense of optimism which accompanies the proposed changes
  - The involvement of more lay people might bring a more meaningful experience of faith
  - The opportunity for a much greater involvement of women - not just the cleaning and the flowers
- How the faith is taught/communicated needs to change to become more relevant to today's world.
- Priests should remain the leaders of into the weekend liturgies as much as possible while real creativity is brought to those liturgies that happen midweek to involve trained lay leaders and other parishioners.
- We need to look at how rituals can change to accommodate the management of sacramental liturgies?
- Introduce full creativity when looking at where deacon / laypeople are involved in liturgy - e.g. preaching. How is the Spirit calling people to ministry and how can we use people's gifts well.
- There is no roadmap - we are walking together helping each other to find the ways forward!
- The emphasis should be on less religion and more faith - While the training of lay leaders is welcomed the parish and its faithful would also benefit from a sound faith formation program that leads to a deeper understanding of faith and inspires people's willingness to lead.
- In recognition of the loss of revenues that less masses will create, the diocese will need to offer support in that regard
- Discussions like this need to affect the end result. Input needs to feel valued - there is no point in opinions being sought if it will be done in a 'certain' way anyway.
- Will pastoral area divisions and parish clustering go the way of the old health boards? It all happens on the basis that someone thought it a good idea and then it will just revert anyway at a later time!
- Don't forget the smaller churches when considering the schedules - they have little and need to keep what they have.
- Trust in lay people's abilities - especially women - their role needs to broaden towards leadership.
- Can Ministers of the Eucharist assist in the chaplaincy outreach e.g. bringing prayer and eucharist rituals to hospitals, nursing homes, home visits?

- The clustering is fostering a sense of welcome newness - meeting people in other parishes, learning new ways - inspiring each other.
- When publishing schedules also publish the priest that is associated with a particular mass - people like familiarity.
- The idea of all rowing in together is really positive - community effort.
- If it's going to be a different kind of church what does that look like, in what ways will it be more enriching, where does the creativity come from - what do we do?
- It seems that much of the pastorally creative work might be helped with the formation of a parish pastoral support group, made up of a broad representative membership of the parish faithful; clerical/lay/female/male/young and old/energetic and wise.
- We should have a similar gathering to this for young people of the parish.
- There is a great willingness to give clusters a try.
- What are the chances of getting more priests from abroad?
- There is a fear of change of course but there is an inevitability in this and we need to embrace it as an opportunity for real positive change to happen.
- We Are The Church so it makes sense that we take up the leadership challenge!
- What about the people that are not here to represent e.g. the young people and indigenous/marginalised groups?
- How can parish/parents help with the sacramental preparation of children in schools i.e. communion /confirmation?
- It's time for the ordination of women?
- What autonomy will the clusters really have?
- Will there be pastoral leaders employed in the pastoral areas/clusters - will the lay leaders be employed or expected to volunteer.