

PARISH OF ST MARGARET CLITHEROW (PARISH MEETINGS HELD 7th/8th Feb 2023)

OUR STRENGTHS and HOPES/VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The following is a record of the responses from parishioners in the recent parish meetings to develop a vision/mission for St Margaret Clitherow parish. The next step will be to synthesise these responses and encapsulate them in a mission statement that should be no more than 2 or 3 sentences long.

STRENGTHS: SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM GROUP DISCUSSION

To be able to come together to practice our faith : Opportunities to attend Mass during the week
Holy Communion to Housebound : Hospital visiting : Ecumenical Movement
Church is open daily for prayer : Faith itself

Welcoming, friendliness to newcomers : Sociable parish : Priest welcoming to young families
Sense of community (lost during covid, we realised how much we missed the caring aspect of the parish)

Regular funding to different groups (Third World, those in need etc.) : Generous givers
Outreach by SVP and volunteers : Other groups well organised. : Volunteers welcome

Children's Liturgy well organised and popular with families : Parish well organised

INDIVIDUAL REPSONSES (TAKEN FROM POST IT NOTES)

Caring/Welcoming : Warmth : Respect for one another : Non-judgemental : Feeling valued
Friendship & Support to strangers : Openness : Acceptance of differences : Helpful : Love
Encouragement to be involved. : Social togetherness (Coffee Friday/Sunday way of meeting)

Regular Masses/ Prayer : Ethos/ Lead by Fr Kevin
Third World/SVP/Rosary/Bereavement - Outreach groups
Our faith and charity : Inter church group : Inclusivity
Coming together at Mass /sharing with one another
Having a priest to help when needed : Good Christian values : Catholic schools (but no bus)

Overcoming of rocky relationships
Community all striving together : Stability : Choir/singing : Diversity :
Encouragement of young people
Wonderful church/building with good facilities

Continue with Good work being done. : Very happy with parish as it is

VISION/HOPES FOR THE FUTURE: SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM GROUP DISCUSSION

We have a good foundation to build on. : More mixing of age groups
A thriving & caring community not just welcome at Mass

One big happy family reaching out to other denominations.

Encouragement of young people via music etc.
Spiritual development of young people : Youth Masses
Encourage parents to develop and support the spiritual development of their young people
Involvement of families, migrants, shift workers : More involvement for children

Help the priest to get to know people and families : To be more open and aware of people's needs
More formation for the laity making us more confident in our faith.

Praying and working together : Healing services : Retreats : More spiritual activities

School bus from the parish. : Parish Pastoral Council (should we wait for priest to come before we do this)
Possible open day to encourage people to become involved. : Continue with charity support.

Women's role in the church being more recognised : Married priests/women priests
More involved with other Catholic churches in York : An outward looking church : Strong social links

Welcome new priest with faith and compassion. : A role for Deacons.

INDIVIDUAL REPSONSES (TAKEN FROM POST IT NOTES)

Build on existing community (young and old) : Welcome All – LGBTQ+ : Ecumenical
Continue to be a welcoming, joyful and caring parish : Welcome strangers (including from abroad)
Come together more, not just for Mass. : Healing services/ Prayer groups : Rosary in May & October
Devotion to Our Lady : Exposition : First Friday devotions : Retreats : Mission/outreach
Regular Masses : Consider Mass times : Adult Catechesis : Improvement of the Liturgy
More readers to be trained. : More Lay Ministers of the Eucharist
Value our priest and hope for a Deacon : To push forward,

Possible meeting with young people to ask what they want from their Church
More links to Catholic schools (school bus) : Mass for teenagers. : "Excite" young people
Young people composing bidding prayers/offertory procession (once a month).
More altar servers and young people giving of their time
Could there be a way to encourage families to come together i.e. schools, playgroup. ?

A social & fundraising group. : Fundraising/ Social events : Walking group
Communication needed between the groups already organised in the parish
More communication so that more people involved : Ask people personally to help.
Welcome handicapped people. : Welcome new people and people from outlying villages
Bring the message of Christ outside of church. : Advertise outside bodies (i.e housing, carers)
Generate a positivity about our faith that radiates and welcomes.
Need to be transparent and inclusive : Collaborative leadership : More diversity and inclusion
More signposting on the website : Deal with the fabric of the building
Encourage the feeling to be needed/wanted.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS WORTH EMPHASISING RELEVANT TO BOTH OF THE CATEGORIES

Young people have conflicts of interest.
Bad publicity regarding the Church means that many are rejecting their faith.
Many more calls on people's time on a Sunday.
Young people have different values to the older generation.
We must encourage the youth or the Church will die

Hopefully our parish will continue with the work it always has, but there is always room for improvement.

Will the new Parish Priest live in the parish and cover both parishes ?
More communication needed, not just the "few" in the know
Hopefully a priest that is no way oppressive or dictating.
Young priest with more updated outlook.