

Parish Vision Day

About 30 parishioners attended.

Fr Brian introduced the day with a talk on models of the church leading up to the emphasis post Vatican II on the Church being the 'Pilgrim People of God'.

We then split into three small groups to think about:

What is St William's for?

Ideas raised were:

- The local catholic community
- The community of believers
- Everybody
- Receiving the Sacraments
- Worship
- Praying together
- Outreach
- Serving His people
- Meeting needs
- Proclaiming the Gospel
- Education
- Belonging
- Fellowship
- Mutual support
- Being a Supportive community
- Witness
- Nurturing / exploring our faith
- Supporting the community in their faith journey
- Joining with the universal church
- 'Incarnation' of the universal church
- Part of the body of Diocese, local Christian community and beyond
- Relating the gospel to present day living
- Being holy
- Forming a people of faith, hope and charity
- Giving spiritual strength to go into the world
- Living the beatitudes
- Refuge and healing
- Breaking down barriers
- Christ's presence in our community

Each group then distilled their thoughts into a sentence starting

“St William's is here to.....”

1. Be the body of Christ, a family of faith, friendship, hope and love for ourselves and the wider community.
2. Support us to be a loving, inclusive, faith community in service to the wider community.
3. Be passionate about the Lord and to proclaim the Gospel.

From these three statements the large group arrived at a single statement:

St William's is here to...

be a loving, Catholic community rooted in Christ's life and message.

It was agreed that this statement was not intended to be an official Mission Statement for our parish but rather a guide for future deliberation.

Concern was expressed that the statement did not explicitly cover outreach.

We talked informally over a soup and cheese lunch.

In the afternoon we split into our small groups to think of the 3 things from what we had heard that we considered most important.

Priorities mentioned:

- Deepening the prayer life of the community
- Lifelong spiritual development
- Deepening the faith of the community
- Awareness of needs in our own and wider community
- Outreach and support to the vulnerable
- Active pastoral care
- Building the community by forming small groups based on geographical areas
- Active, motivated laity
- Encouraging involvement and commitment
- Encouraging the involvement of the under 50s
- Engaging with/attracting young people
- Sacramental preparation
- Good communication, internal and external
- Hospitality
- Making our presence known to the wider community
- Inter faith dialogue
- Vocations

Each group chose 3 priorities considered most important.

1. Deepening the prayer life of the community
2. Outreach and support to the vulnerable
3. Engaging with/attracting young people

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1. Empowered, active, motivated laity
 2. Good relationships and good communication
 3. Well-resourced pastoral care

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1. Encouraging the involvement of the under 50s
 2. Lifelong spiritual development
 3. Finding ways to build a unified Parish community
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Together, recognising that we cannot do everything at once we picked out:

Two Priorities

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developing structures to enable an active, motivated laity.2. Providing opportunities for lifelong spiritual development. |
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Two Next Steps

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Think about what form a parish pastoral council / forum might take.2. Set up some sort of parish pastoral council / forum together with occasional open parish meetings. |
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If you are interested in helping to take these forward please attend the

'Next Steps' Parish Meeting on Saturday 7th Dec from 10 – 12 in the Centre.