

Feedback from Parish Assembly – 6 February 2022.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parish of Richmond Assembly earlier this year. The Assembly provided the opportunity for parishioners to give feedback to the Parish Council specifically on the question of “*How can we continue to be connected in our parish and reach out to the broader community?*” Many suggestions and questions were put forward; these have been grouped together under relevant headings.

With the onset of Covid and subsequent lock-down, it is taking time for things to return to what was previously considered “normal”. The numbers serving in the various ministries have declined and a drive for new members is currently underway. Training is offered to both new recruits and those wanting to undertake a refresher course. We need more volunteers in order to commence and / or continue a number of the initiatives mentioned below. Please consider stepping forward to join one (or more) of the many ministries / groups which support our parish.

To help improve communication, the Council is investigating the development of an app to provide up-to-date information on Parish happenings. A feedback / suggestion box will also be installed in the foyer at both St Monica’s and St Gregory’s.

Category	Feedback	Council’s response
Spiritual / Catechesis	Weekday Masses	Mass times are published in the Bulletin each week and on the website. Mass is celebrated at 9.00am at St Monica’s on Monday / Wednesday / Friday and at St Gregory’s on Saturday. An evening Mass is also celebrated on the first Friday of the month. In addition, our priests celebrate Mass in nursing homes, for the Poor Claire sisters and requiems. We are grateful to our priests for their ministry to us.
	Bible study / prayer groups / faith development in parish and homes Lenten & Advent groups.	Lenten & Advent groups are conducted during these seasons and details are published in the bulletin The Body of Christ prayer group meets at a private home in Hobartville. A group of parishioners convenes in the meeting room each Tuesday morning for prayer and to reflect on the coming Sunday’s readings. These groups are open to all parishioners. Video catechesis on the Mass is currently being shown during Sunday Masses. We are hoping to re-commence “Faith Conversations” later this year.
	Visits to the Blessed Sacrament when church is locked.	The tabernacle can be viewed through the window near the side entrance to St Monica’s, opposite the meeting room. It is proposed to install a seat outside the door for this purpose.
	Children’s liturgy	This will recommence once ministers are recruited.
	Live streaming of Masses	The Diocese has lifted the dispensation and is encouraging people to return Mass in person. For those unable to do so, Mass can be viewed on other parish websites.
	Pilgrimage	This is being investigated

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Outreach	Youth	Fr Gayan has organised for the BPC band to play at 5.30pm Mass once a month. The parish youth are encouraged to attend this Mass and support the students. The youth group will reform once leaders have been recruited.
	Elderly	Visits to nursing homes are still somewhat restricted due to COVID. Pastoral Care ministers are in touch with nursing homes and visit the sick and elderly in their homes. More volunteers are needed to perform this ministry.
	New Parishioners	A welcome brochure advising Mass times, parish activities etc is being prepared. Apart from new parishioners, the brochure will be distributed to families new to the school, B&Bs, new housing developments etc.
	Community / social	Many social activities were suggested. These will be investigated and, where feasible, organised by the Council. In the meantime, parishioners are welcome to make use of the meeting room for gatherings such as mothers' groups, older people's groups (Circle of Friends), book club etc. Contact the Parish Office to discuss arrangements. Morning tea, hosted by one of the ministry groups, is available after the 9.30am Mass on the 4 th Sunday of each month. It is currently not possible to use the old church for this purpose.
Communication	Bulletin	The question of publishing funeral details in the Bulletin was raised. This is a privacy issue and can only be done at the request of the deceased's family.
	Website	The website is managed by the Diocese. The parish is restricted to uploading the bulletin and rosters – hence there is sometimes a delay in information being loaded or removed. A QR code directing users to a different Catholic website each week will be developed and published in the Bulletin.
Fund Raising		A successful white elephant / book / cake sale was held during June. Future fund-raising efforts, including the possibility of reinstating the fete, are being looked at.