



ZOOM MEETING HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2020 AT 7:30PM

CONCLUSION

Having finished reading Fr Mallon's "Divine Renovation", most of tonight's meeting was dedicated to group discussion in breakout rooms and reports to the hall. These were the guiding questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think the principles of the 'Divine Renovation Ministry' are applicable (relevant) for our Church Community? If yes:
 - a. Define the VISION and MISSION for our Church?
 - b. What are the POSITIVE ASPECTS we need to further develop?
And
 - c. What WOULD YOU CHANGE in our Church?
2. How CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE to make possible the changes we need to fulfil the vision you have for the Church Community?

Contributions

Individual Contributions No. 1

It is obvious that many people had problems with the book. I think the important thing is that we are stirred by it to do something in our own Parish. Of course there are plans to study his next book 'Beyond the Parish', which is the ultimate aim, as Jesus said 'Go out to the whole world'.

As far as the Parish is concerned, we need to evangelise here first. Let me say that considering employing 'experts' to show us the way I find absurd. We have mature Christians capable of leading Renewal.

The point came up about all of us doing the RCIA. This is for new believers not those already mature Catholics. The thing I would suggest is for those of us already involved in the desire for renewal:

The Life in the Spirit seminars would be ideal.



The Alpha course which Father Mallon proposes is surely what the word says, which is beginnings, probably suitable for Sunday Catholics who don't yet have a personal experience of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are in constant need of renewal ourselves to be able to renew the Parish. The new book will obviously show various ways of reaching out to those without faith or Catholics no longer involved in the Church.

The ministries that would open up would also involve all the areas that Jesus himself spoke about: prison visiting, hospitals, care homes, schools and perhaps street evangelization.

We need to pray that the Holy Spirit empowers us and opens doors for ministry. This would obviously mean the giving of ourselves, first of all to the Parish and then to those outside. We have begun to see a vision for ourselves and the Parish, but remember vision without action remains just a dream, and action without vision is hugging and puffing without much joy. Remembering always that it is God's work, and we are merely channels of his Love.

Individual Contributions No. 2

Mission Statement for the Sacred Heart Church, Sunningdale.

To gather people; to help them live holy lives and get to heaven.

Vision Statement

The Sacred Heart Church, Sunningdale is a catholic community of people who chose to gather and

Welcome everybody

Participate fully in parish life and worship

Discover, live and share our Scripture and Tradition

Deepen our spirituality

Serve those in need

Support the Verona Fathers financially.



What are the positive aspects we need to further develop

- Welcoming.
- Inviting people to help with tasks.
- Providing coffee after Mass.
- Reading ministry.
- Training altar servers.
- First Communion classes.
- Confirmation classes.
- Lectio Divina meetings.
- Choir singing and organ playing.
- Take advantage of modern technology.
- The Zoom meetings have been successful.
- We are enriched by the Sacred Heart Website.

What would you change in our church

- Encourage people to visit and pray privately in the church for 15 minutes a day.
- Give young people a chance to take leading roles and step back yourself.

How can I contribute?

- Visit the Church to pray before the blessed sacrament for 15 minutes a day.
- Train any readers who wish to be trained.

GROUP 1

What is the vision/goal and what are we working towards and how are we going to achieve it?

The task of a Leader is to develop a vision and engulf the whole congregation into it. Our vision can be framed around some of the ideas from the book. We need to move towards that vision and that objective.

What do we need to preserve and what do we need to change? Do we see our congregation growing?

Fr Mallon comes across as aggressive and pushy.



Foreigners come to our Church because they are here on work contracts. They then either leave or become valuable members of the congregation. We welcome all.

We need to be more enthused.

The Homily is the most important platform to explain this journey.

We all need study groups – not only the youth.

Bishop Barron – What we do has to be attractive to attract people – The analogy of ‘low hanging fruit and why not pluck the fruit from the lower branches’.

How can we move forward – This is our mission – how to bring people to Christ?

The Church has failed the young – all about communication –. The Church does not talk in a way that is relevant to youngsters.

We could do more with the parents of the children who attend the First Communion classes so that they could be more involved in the life of the Church.

Great failings in our Church.

There is no time to do Religious Instruction in schools. Catholic schools are also failing our children. We would probably not be here if we did not have a catholic background.

We could be more credible if we could bring back to the faith our own family members who are lapsed Catholics and former members of our parish.

We need to overcome our fear of evangelizing.

To expand the idea further it was felt that more people should be encouraged to take part in the Second Study Group and perhaps we could communicate the aims of the group a bit better in the newsletter.



GROUP 2

How to plan?

It was premature to set targets especially when the 1st year we need just to get up and running. We are still 'creating the product'

Mission Statement

It is important to keep things simple.

The Catholic Church mission statement is to continue the work of Jesus Christ. This could be expanded to help create our mission statement.

A few suggestions were:

- 1) To gather people, to help them live holy lives and get to heaven.
- 2) A welcoming community of children of Christ, reaching out to all.
- 3) Sacred Heart Church works with all of its members to be a community which creates Disciples for Christ who, guided by the Holy Spirit, take out to others Christ's message of salvation.

It is not about numbers, but about moving out to nourish people in faith and encourage people to come into the faith. We need to define the mission statement.

John and Pamela's street evangelisation was discussed and what they did and asked how they followed up with people that were interested. They felt that they handed over to the Holy Spirit to take it from there. They said people were always surprised to see Catholics standing on the streets talking about God.

It was felt that Salvation was not discussed enough at Churches in sermons or anywhere. It was important to get this message across especially to young people.

What we wish we could achieve in an ideal world.

Be welcoming- everybody involved in welcoming

All people being more involved rather than a few

Private Praying daily and share traditions.

Young people in leading roles

How to engage young people?

Opinions differed with some feeling it was up to the parents to lead the way and keep them in the faith whilst others felt that we needed to have more services etc aimed at young people and perhaps delivered by young people.



GROUP 3

A person's Simple Mission Statement is "Through Him, With Him and In Him".

Community building

Creating greater community spirit and cohesion.

Outreach and Evangelisation

Need to reach out to other Churches and bring Christ to those on the fringes – the poor, those depressed, lonely.

Coffee morning – extend to each Mass as it engenders greater community togetherness and maybe a glass of wine after Saturday night Mass.

Make a conscious effort to talk to someone new at Mass.

Get more of the community involved in the proposed initiatives.

Invite others to contribute by approaching them face to face.

When visiting other Churches, look out for ideas that are innovative and consider implementing in our Church (rather than reinvent the wheel).

Explore possibilities of encouraging young families and children back in to the Church

(1) children's liturgy;

(2) youth choir led by a young musician with hymns/songs that resonate with the youth

(3) Once a month – a Mass led by the youth.

A garden party in the summer – invite other churches and take the lead
Resurrect and lead Walk of Witness on Good Friday in the Ascot community.

Spiritual Formation

Let us not hide our strengths – we are already Welcoming well.

Our Lectio Divina course to be encouraged even more.

Promote Holy Adoration with the local community as well as other Churches.

Life in the Spirit Seminars, invite speakers, young seminarians to address our congregation.

To run Alpha Course. It was suggested to also explore the 'WHY' course which is Catholic based (Alpha is Protestant based).



Life in the Spirit

More Prayer Groups:

- (1) Rosary before Mass in May and October
- (2) Stations of the Cross on 1st Friday of the Month
- (3) Annual Novena
- (4) Lenten Talks by missionary speakers (Jesuits, Redemptorists, Franciscans). More outside speakers.
- (5) Promote Adoration more.



Group 4

Do you think the principles of the Divine Renovation Ministry are applicable for our Church Community?

We agree that discipleship and mission are required in our Church.

We have reservations, not 100% on board with the book.

The community at Sacred Heart is older, traditional, set in their ways and don't like change.

We think that . Fr Mallon is making religion into a business which we don't like.

Define the Vision and Mission for our Church

Our vision is that growth is imperative for progress to be achieved by discipleship and evangelisation.

Sacred Heart exists to give people spiritual guidance and lead them to a personal relationship with the Lord in a loving and supporting community with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We don't want to go knocking on people's doors.

We could start evangelising by sharing with friends.

Best to keep it simple.

We want to have a large and growing community of believers welcoming the Holy Spirit and being aware of our Catholic heritage, spreading the word as Christ told us, obeying his commands.

Evangelise with discipleship: go out and spread God's Word.

What are the positive aspects we need to further develop?

Communication, community spirit, participation and growth, prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Open our hearts and doors to the outside world by inviting people to Church services and activities so that they come to know the Lord in a personal way.

What would you change in our Church?

Re-educate the older people to accept change and progress.

Initiate services where our Mass and beliefs are explained.

Acknowledge when things have gone wrong so people can see us correcting ourselves and will want to join us.



How can you contribute to make possible the change we need to fulfil the vision you have for the Church Community?

Join group activities.

Assist the Priest in his responsibilities and duties.

Accept change.

Ask friends for a *Friendship Afternoon* with tea and cake, involving everyone, subtle and friendly: get a speaker on anything that can lead us to talk about our faith.

Start a food bank, invite people in and give them a nutritional food basket.

Hold talks about the history of our area or talk by celebrities and get to know people in the area: Brian May, Michael Flatley.

Invite unbelievers to come to our Church to learn about what we do here.

Help create services and activities that explain our faith and attract people to come to the Sacred Heart Church.



NEXT MEETING

2nd September 7:30 p.m.

“Beyond the Parish”

Conclusion

- Preface** - 9-12: Sue and Alice
- Introduction:** **Uncovering the Framework**
- pp. 13-20: Sue and Alice
- Chapter 1:** **Vision. The Essence of Hope**
- pp. 21-29: Pasty Moore
- Chairperson:** **Anthony Hooley**
- Secretary:** **Pauline McKenna**