



Foundation 1

EVANGELISATION

Introduction



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the very end of the age”.

Matthew 28:19-20

The previous sections might be challenging but they also serve as an excellent wake up call. After decades of following the well-trodden paths of previous generations, it is time to enter more deeply into our own discipleship, encountering Jesus anew and being sent by Him to invite others into that encounter and friendship.



The difficulty many parishes can face in seeking to grow in the mission of Christ is determining where to begin. A starting point, echoed in the feedback shared by our deaneries and communities, is a renewed focus upon evangelisation.

Creating a parish that is committed to building a culture of evangelisation – a parish committed to cooperating with the Holy Spirit to call and form disciples as Jesus invites us to – is a foundation of our identity as communities of faith.



Walk with Christ Procession

Evangelisation is a natural expression of our own discipleship in Christ. Pope Benedict XVI explained it this way: “[d]iscipleship and mission are like the two sides of a single coin: when the disciple is in love with Christ, he cannot stop proclaiming to the world that only in Him do we find salvation (cf. Acts 4:12). In effect, the disciple knows that without Christ there is no light, no hope, no love, no future”.¹

When we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to bring others to Christ and the Church, it deepens our own identity as missionary disciples and plants new energy and life in our communities. As Pope John Paul II declared, “faith is strengthened when given to others!”² When we personally encounter Christ and invite others into relationship with Him, our parishes will grow and be renewed, and our society ultimately transformed, as disciples herald the Kingdom of God in our world.

What is Evangelisation?

The word ‘evangelisation’ comes from the Greek *euangelion* which means “**good news**”. Jesus gave witness to the purpose for which He was sent: His mission was the proclamation of God’s love to all people in fulfilment of God’s promises, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor’... Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:16-21).³

Pope Paul VI taught that the Church also knows that Jesus’ words about proclaiming the Good News “apply in all truth to herself”. The Church in its very being “prolongs and continues” Jesus, and “it is above all His mission and His condition of being an evangeliser that she is called upon to continue”. Evangelisation is, therefore, not only “the grace and vocation proper to the Church”, but it is “her deepest identity”.⁴

Just as Jesus’ evangelising activity includes “all aspects of His mystery – the Incarnation itself, His miracles, His teaching, the gathering together of the disciples, the sending out of the Twelve, the Cross and the Resurrection, the permanence of His presence in the midst of His own”,⁵ so too **the Church in her being and all her activities “exists in order to evangelise**, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious Resurrection”.⁶

¹ Pope Benedict XVI, *Address at the Inaugural Session of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin American and the Caribbean*, Aparecida, 13 May 2007.

² Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio* 2.

³ Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 6.

⁴ Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14-15.

⁵ Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 6.

⁶ Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14.

Jesus did not remain in one place because His mission compelled Him to preach the Good News “to other towns” (Luke 4:42-44). This included places like Sychar where He encountered the Samaritan woman at the well. Today the Church can never be “closed in upon itself”.⁷ In faithfulness to Jesus, we are called to do for others as Jesus did for the Samaritan woman: to go beyond our borders, communities and places of comfort to people who are hurting and are thirsting but do not always know what they need. We are called to invite all those who seek goodness, friendship, healing and hope to an encounter with Jesus, as it is He who reveals their true identity as a beloved son or daughter of God.

“The word ‘evangelisation’ comes from the Greek euangelion which means ‘good news’”

Parishes as Centres for Evangelisation

In his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation on the joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis shared his vision for parish life as a centre for evangelisation:

*“The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented”.*⁸

In the parish community, there are at least three ways in which we evangelise. Firstly, we share beyond the parish with those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have refused Him. Secondly, we share the Good News with infrequent church attenders, encouraging them anew to a deeper relationship and fresh engagement with Jesus and with the life of His body, the Church. Thirdly, we share the Good News in ordinary pastoral ministry to inflame the hearts of the faithful.⁹

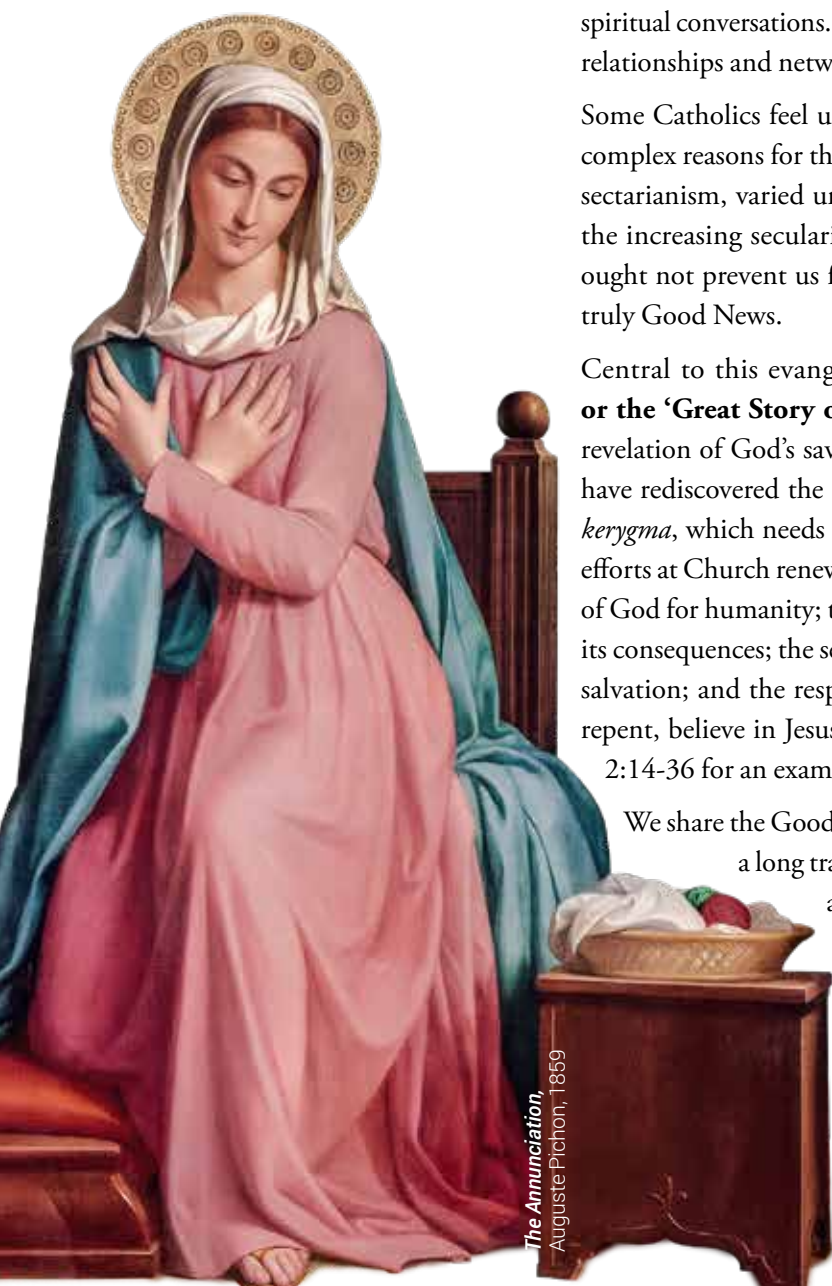
⁷ Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 15.

⁸ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 28.

⁹ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 14; Pope Benedict XVI, *Homily for the Closing of the Synod on the New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Faith*, 28 October 2012.



“ ... through prayer we recognise, invite and trust the Holy Spirit as the principal agent of evangelisation and the one who gives the growth”



The Annunciation,
Auguste Pichon, 1859

It is important to provide those we meet at Sunday Mass with opportunities for encounter and formation in order to deepen their discipleship. However, the Great Commission calls us to do more than this. As Pope Francis has shared, the Church is not a ‘private club’ but a missionary movement that reaches beyond itself, appealing to those who have not yet encountered Christ and those who are poor, suffering, marginalised or in need. It lives by the conviction that “Jesus never stops welcoming and speaking with everyone, even with those who no longer expect to encounter God in their life”.¹⁰

At the heart of this task of evangelisation is a **culture of invitation** in the parish and the **faith-filled witness** of intentional disciples. Communities faithful to the mission to evangelise are deliberate in inviting others to experience the spiritual and social life of the parish, ask questions, and enter spiritual conversations. This invitation begins with outreach in our existing relationships and networks of friends, family, neighbours and colleagues.

Some Catholics feel uncomfortable in sharing their faith and there are complex reasons for this in our Australian context, including a history of sectarianism, varied understandings of mission and evangelisation, and the increasing secularisation of our society. However, these influences ought not prevent us from doing as Jesus asks us to do: sharing what is truly Good News.

Central to this evangelisation is the **proclamation of the *kerygma* or the ‘Great Story of Jesus’**, His life, death and resurrection as the revelation of God’s saving love and mercy. As Pope Francis affirms, “we have rediscovered the fundamental role of [this] first announcement or *kerygma*, which needs to be the centre of all evangelising activity and all efforts at Church renewal”.¹¹ The *kerygma* communicates: the loving plan of God for humanity; the separation from God brought about by sin and its consequences; the sending of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, for our salvation; and the response this grace calls forth from every person, to repent, believe in Jesus, be baptised and live as a new creation (see Acts 2:14-36 for an example of this primary proclamation in Scripture).

We share the Good News through **words and deeds**. The Church has a long tradition of sharing the Gospel through proclamation and faith-filled initiatives. Through words, we proclaim the *kerygma* just as the first disciples did and we speak this truth into all the scenarios, places, cultures and situations in which we find ourselves - even at the risk of rejection. We also

¹⁰ Pope Francis, *General Audience on the Family and Community*, 9 September 2015.

¹¹ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 164.

share the Good News through many works of mercy of which the Church has a long history, and through active engagement with all that shapes the human family including the environment, the economy, politics and our common social life. Both are essential: our words express the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15) and our deeds are the way we 'walk the talk' in our love of God and neighbour.

In the desire to share this Good News and develop a culture of evangelisation and outreach in the parish, **intercessory prayer is also essential.** In intercessory prayer, we look not to our own interests but to those of others, especially people whom we desire to know Christ more deeply.¹² Most importantly, through prayer we recognise, invite and trust the Holy Spirit as the principal agent of evangelisation and the one who gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:7). It is the creative power of the Holy Spirit we invoke to come and give us new life. Existing prayer groups and individuals with a particular gift for intercessory prayer (such as many of our elderly parishioners) can be invited to pray for the ongoing work of evangelisation and the spiritual renewal of our parish community.

As essential parts of the body of Christ, these foundations of evangelisation are also relevant to other Christian communities, such as our migrant communities, ecclesial movements, Catholic schools, and social support agencies in their mission to the world.

¹² *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2634-2636.



Putting Evangelisation into Practice

Those who are missionary disciples of the Lord have had, and continue to have, a life-giving encounter with Him, and seek to offer their lives to God in order to give others the opportunity for that encounter. Communities of fruitful and missionary discipleship are built on a number of essential foundations, one of which is evangelisation. This means evangelisation is foundational in our identity as disciples and as communities of disciples, as well as the priorities and activities that express who we are.

Below is a four (4) step process which your community may choose to undertake to **reflect** upon the place of evangelisation in the life of Jesus and in your community, **review** how that identity is being expressed in the actions and priorities of your community, **discern and decide** how God might be calling your community to strengthen that foundation, and take particular **actions** with the help of the support and resources outlined in this Mission Plan.

This four step process can be led by the pastoral leader of your community on a parish retreat day or a series of reflections days. In the parish, the priest may do so with the help and gifts of lay co-workers such as members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, heads of pastoral ministries, and pastoral leaders within the schools such as the Principals, Religious Education Coordinators and Family Educators. Likewise, leaders of other communities can undertake this process with their key collaborators in mission.



The Appearance of Christ Before the People,
Alexander Andreyevich Ivanov, 1857

Priests seeking to strengthen their parish's foundations for mission are also welcome to engage in this process by attending a *Parishes for Mission* day and bringing their parish leaders with them. These days will be offered regionally and online by the Parish Renewal Team of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation. These days will provide parish leaders with formation in mission, strategies to assess and strengthen foundations for mission, and practical ways to implement suggested actions for mission. For more details, visit www.gomakedisciples.org.au or contact the Parish Renewal Team on (02) 9390 5330 or at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org.





Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor

Step 1: **Reflect on the Evangelising Mission of Your Community**

1.1 In the case of a parish community, a starting point can be to undertake a ‘prayer walk’ around the suburbs within your parish boundaries. Recognising intercessory prayer as a foundation of evangelisation, priests and leaders can walk through their local community, together or separately, praying for the Holy Spirit to assist them to see through the eyes of Christ, inviting Him to guide their outreach as a parish. Parishioners already engaged in prayer ministries such as rosary groups, Holy Hours, and other devotions or prayer groups can pray for this endeavour and renewed vision. Maps of our Sydney parishes are available at www.sydneycatholic.org/parishes_list. Other Eucharistic communities can do similarly by praying about their mission field as revealed by their location, apostolate and charism.

1.2 Parishes can also ‘explore’ their area by reading the social data on their community. The National Centre for Pastoral Research produces excellent reports on a range of social indicators among all the people who live within the parish boundaries (e.g. how many people act as carers, unemployment rates, housing statistics, languages spoken, and religious identification). This can help identify needs, problems, and gifts in your community that could be a starting point in considering strategies and practices of evangelisation. These reports are free and available for every parish in the Archdiocese of Sydney. You will find the latest reports online at www.ncpr.catholic.org.au/2016-parish-social-profiles/sydney. If you have difficulty finding them, please contact the National Centre for Pastoral Research at ncpr@catholic.org.au or the Parish Renewal Team of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation on (02) 9390 5330.

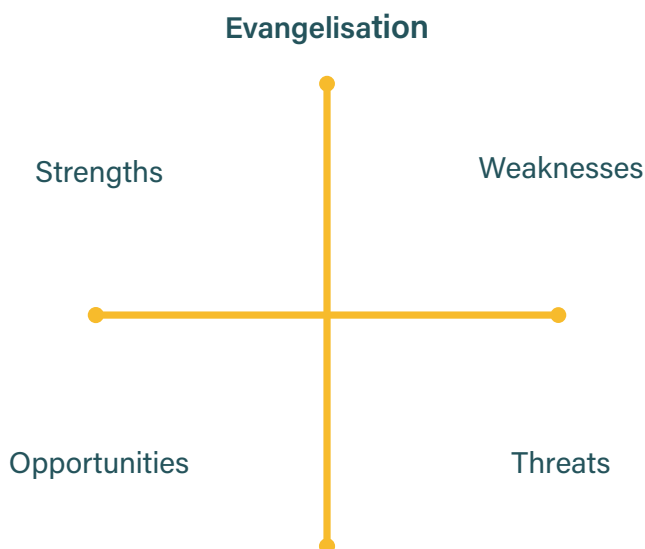
- 1.3** In the light of the pastoral realities within your local community, you can then reflect on the evangelising mission of the parish as modelled in the life of Jesus whose mission we continue today. One story that is fruitful for this meditation is that of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-30). As shared, this narrative can act as a model for our evangelising mission, for Jesus goes beyond borders, communities and places of comfort to people who are hurting and are thirsting but do not always know what they need. This story can be a helpful way to start to contemplate our own call to continue Jesus' mission of evangelisation today. You will find this meditation available at www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

Step 2:

Review the Foundation of Evangelisation in Your Community

- 2.1** As the Church's vocation is to continue Christ's mission to share the *euangelion* ('Good News') with all people, being faithful to that mission requires consciously developing outreach to others as a foundation of the culture of your community. A starting point is to examine how this evangelising mission is expressed in the actions and priorities of the parish community. These kinds of assessments can be challenging but when it comes to spiritual renewal – whether in our personal lives or as communities of faith – the only real starting point is the reality of our current circumstances. No matter what the situation of our parish or community is, this is where God meets us. Moreover this reality can be faced without fear and with hope, knowing that “nothing is impossible to God” (Luke 1:37).
- 2.2** The first practical evaluation tool to review how evangelisation currently expresses itself within your parish and the wider community is a 'SWOT' analysis. This is an assessment of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the practice of evangelisation, enabling your parish to consider the ways in which it is called to be the sign and presence of Christ in your local neighbourhood.

The advantage of this tool is that it takes into account the unique circumstances of your community and enables the priest and his community to identify areas for action. This exercise allows communities to reflect on current practices and also discover new possibilities for practical outreach. Once completed, the resulting information will help you to identify areas for response and enable your parish to choose practical actions included in this plan to grow its outreach. This tool is designed to get the conversation started in the local community and can be applied to the other foundations of disciple-making, that is, leadership, community, formation, and worship.



Once this brainstorming has taken place, and a list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to evangelisation is recorded, it is then possible to identify specific areas within each for response. No parish can be expected to address all these areas of concern at once. The following questions will assist your parish or other community to focus on practical areas where it can best begin to strengthen and renew its efforts to evangelise:

- a. What current strength in evangelisation can our community most easily build upon?
- b. What current weakness in evangelisation would be the easiest one to fix?
- c. What is the greatest opportunity in evangelisation we could seize upon with the least amount of time and resources?
- d. What is the most immediate or greatest threat we need to address for evangelisation to grow and renew our community?¹³

2.3 The second practical evaluation tool is to measure how much practical support, time and priority the community gives to evangelisation by answering the following questions:

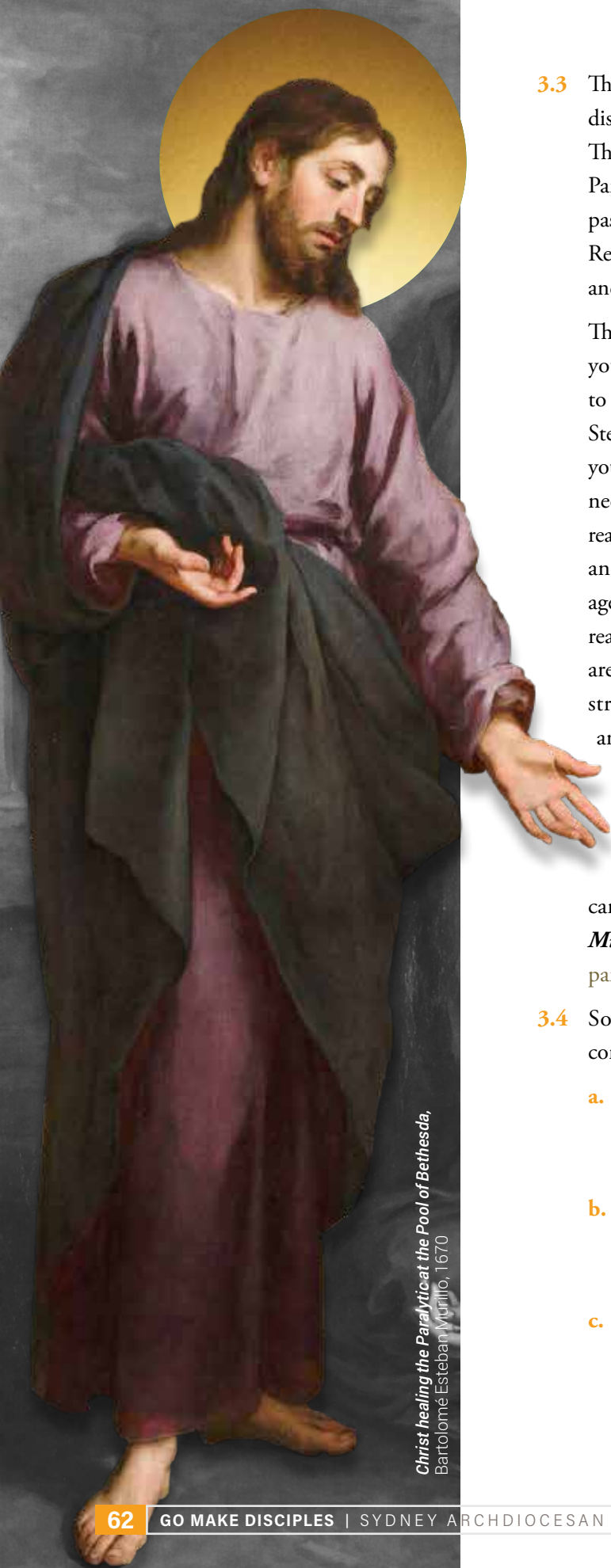
- a. Are there any paid staff whose role explicitly includes support of evangelisation? (This does not include the priest leading your community, an assistant priest or deacon).
- b. Do our prayer groups pray for the evangelisation of the whole community and invoke the creative power of the Holy Spirit to bring abundant life to our parish? Have we as leaders asked them to undertake this essential prayer?
- c. How much of our staff's time is spent reaching beyond the Sunday Mass-goers to proclaiming or supporting the proclamation of the Good News "to other towns" (Luke 4:43)?

¹³Adapted from Fr James Mallon's *Divine Renovation Guidebook: A Step-by-Step Manual for Transforming Your Parish*.

- d. How much of the annual parish budget is spent on evangelisation initiatives, programs, and formation of our leaders? Do we have funds to support this foundation for parish renewal?
 - e. Of the ministries and groups in our parish or other community, how many of them are specifically engaged in helping parishioners, Catholics who do not attend the parish, or those who do not know Christ to encounter Him? Do we need more volunteers to support evangelisation?
 - f. Are any of the groups specifically directed at proclaiming the Good News “to other towns” (Luke 4:43), that is, to those who are not Christian? Examples of resources to support this outreach include Alpha, ChristLife, and Sycamore.
 - g. Are there any groups or activities, such as ‘Catholics Returning Home’ or ‘Landings’, that seek to reach out to Catholics who are not involved in any Eucharistic community?
- 2.4 A third way in which the life of the parish can be reviewed, and new plans for evangelisation made, is through the Australian resource *Building Stronger Parishes*, developed by the National Centre for Pastoral Research of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference. Drawing from the experience of parishes in Australia, this resource examines eight aspects of parish vitality, worksheets for review and discussion of parish practices, and templates for planning in local communities of faith. This resource is available online at www.buildingstrongerparishes.catholic.org.au.

Step 3: Discern and Decide

- 3.1 By now you should have a clearer sense of the place of evangelisation in your identity as a parish or other Eucharistic community and how that foundation for renewal is currently being expressed in the actions and priorities of your community. The next step is to discern and decide how God might be calling your particular community to strengthen its foundation of evangelisation.
- 3.2 Discernment is a process of prayerfully separating good things you *are* called to do at this time from good things you are *not* called to do at this time. It involves gathering information and then, through prayer and discussion, making a decision about what you discern God is calling you to do. This involves being detached enough from your own plans and opinions in order to have the freedom and docility to listen to and respond to the Holy Spirit.



Christ healing the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda,
Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, 1670

3.3 The priest can lead his parishioners in a conversation to help discern together what God is calling the community to do. This conversation can include the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, heads of pastoral ministries, pastoral leaders within the schools such as the Principals, Religious Education Coordinators and Family Educators, and others with a passion and gift for evangelisation.

The discernment begins by thinking and praying about your identity, as well as the people in your mission field to whom you can intentionally reach out as established in Steps 1 and 2. Based on the information in Steps 1 and 2 your conversation can embrace who is in your region, their needs, and who your community should be focused on reaching. You might consider the demographic information and local trends that are shaping your community, the age and spiritual background of those you are seeking to reach, their current life stage, and the key questions they are asking. You can then intentionally shape your parish strategies of invitation, welcome, enquiry, community and formation with this group in mind. This is a good way to start in the creation of a vision of a parish built on a strong foundation of evangelisation. Resources for a group discernment process are available at www.gomakedisciples.org.au or the Parish Renewal Team can facilitate the conversation for you at a **Parishes for Mission** day. Contact the team on (02) 9390 5330 or at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org for more details.

3.4 Some things to consider in your discernment and conversation include:

- a. What did you notice when you took your prayer walk around the streets within your parish boundaries? Were there any situations or observations that struck you?
- b. What did you notice when you reviewed the parish social profile? Were there any obvious needs, hurts or aspirations in your community?
- c. When you meditated upon Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, did anything strike you in particular or did it reveal anything about the place of evangelisation in the life of your community?

- d.** What is the greatest strength in evangelisation that emerged from your SWOT analysis and how might you build upon this? What was the greatest threat and how could you address this?
 - e.** Do you give practical support, time and priority to evangelisation? Would you like to commit to increasing that support in some measurable way through funds, volunteers, and time dedicated to outreach?
- 3.5** As part of your discernment, consider the list of strategies below to strengthen the foundation of evangelisation and actions to implement each strategy. These recommendations represent the wisdom of communities in Sydney gathered through these past years of consultation with clergy, deaneries and communities, as well as research into best practices for evangelisation here in Australia and overseas.

You are encouraged to choose those actions that allow you to best respond to your local circumstances, with relevant support and resources also listed for implementation in your community.

Your parish or community may already be doing many of the good things outlined. However, there will also be actions that your community can take up to strengthen the foundation of evangelisation in your parish. Many of these actions will also be applicable to migrant chaplaincies, shrines and ecclesial movements in the Archdiocese of Sydney.



Strategy 1:

Provide a Discipleship Pathway

Conversion is a process and not instantaneous. Therefore, communities seeking to ‘make disciples’ can benefit from **putting in place clear steps for people to walk and follow, a pathway of discipleship through which people can grow**. Such a discipleship pathway identifies steps that parishes can offer — and people can take — to encounter Jesus and then continue in spiritual conversion and maturity in our community.

The experience of growing parishes locally and abroad has affirmed the importance of clearly communicating what people can do to grow in relationship with Jesus and the journey in the parish that will help them to grow in this relationship.

For example, a pathway for parish evangelisation might begin with building up a culture of invitation in the community, and for people to be drawn into an encounter with the Gospel via an initiative such as Alpha or ChristLife that explores life and the Christian faith. Following this initial encounter, participants can then be encouraged to join the organising team for such a course where they will receive formation in leadership and service, or otherwise join a small group in the parish to connect more deeply with others in community. They might join a small group Bible study in order to deepen the faith they have discovered. As a next step, the parish might then encourage participants to commit to active mission in the form of service to others; for example, to become involved in a parish ministry or share their God-given talents in social outreach in the wider community.

Such a discipleship pathway enables a parish to have a sense of where people are on the journey of faith and what to offer to help them to move to the next step in faith in the context of parish ministries.

The questions below will also assist in discerning the pathway that best suits the people you are seeking to reach:

1. What does it mean to say we want to ‘make disciples’?
2. What structured steps or ‘discipleship pathway’ do we want to offer, to help people to take a next step and grow in their relationship to Christ?

Resources

- The Parish Renewal Team will address this strategy in its *Parishes for Mission* days. For more information, visit www.gomakedisciples.org.au or contact us at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5330

Strategy 1 (continued):

Provide a Discipleship Pathway

- Consider what a discipleship pathway could look like in your parish by watching the video created by St Ann's Catholic Parish in Coppell, Texas: www.youtube.be/kA4DD1TKQVg
- Access a discipleship pathway template online at the *Go Make Disciples* website: www.gomakedisciples.org.au
- A helpful resource for developing such an intentional parish pathway can be found in the 'Game Plan' of Saint Benedict's Parish, found in the *Divine Renovation Guidebook: A Step-by-Step Manual for Transforming Your Parish*, pages 164-167

Strategy 2:

Make the *Kerygma* Central

A renewed evangelisation includes a renewed focus on **the *kerygma* or 'Great Story of Jesus'**. This focus can begin by prayerful meditation on Acts 2:14-36 or Acts 3:12-26, writing down in our own words the basic Gospel message and identifying this kernel of the Gospel with others (e.g. 'God made us for relationship with Him, through our sin we broke the relationship we were intended to have, Jesus came to heal this relationship through His life, death and resurrection, giving us the Church, and we have the opportunity to respond to His grace by choosing to become His disciples and inviting others into relationship with Him').

Resources

- A guide on the ways in which to present the *kerygma* in parish ministries, sacramental preparation and outreach initiatives can be found at www.catholicmissionarydisciples.com/news/the-content-of-the-kerygma-good-news-for-the-world

Strategy 3:

Support Evangelisation with Intercessory Prayer

In offering a pathway for disciples to be called and to grow, each step and initiative can be supported by formalised intercessory prayer in the parish, that is, by **bringing to prayer all those who do not know Christ or are called to know Christ more deeply**. This foundation of prayer recognises that evangelisation is the work of the Holy Spirit and is essential to parish growth. Local initiatives of prayer can begin with existing prayer groups and can range from focused intercessions during Mass in the Prayer of the Faithful, to invitations to parishioners to pray a Hail Mary each day for conversions, fasting and prayer days in the parish, or a monthly Holy Hour to pray for the parish and its evangelising mission. Parishioners with a particular gift for intercessory prayer (such as many of the elderly in our parishes) can also be asked to make this a particular intention. Your parish can invite other established groups to pray for evangelisation such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), RCIA groups and the Legion of Mary which already have a spirituality and practice of prayer, as well as members with a gift for evangelisation.

Resources

- A helpful introduction to intercessory prayer can be found at www.focusoncampus.org/content/intercessory-prayer
- On the role of the prayer team in evangelisation, visit www.sycamore.fm/planning/the-prayer-team

Strategy 4:

Provide Formation in Evangelisation

Parish teams, Parish Pastoral Councils and leaders in ministry might **dedicate reflection day/s to the evangelising mission of the parish**, praying about and discerning opportunities to cultivate a culture of evangelisation in the parish and initiatives to reach out to the wider community as disciples ‘called and sent.’

Resources

- Apart from *Parishes for Mission* days at a regional level, the Parish Renewal Team will be offering reflection days and other formation on the evangelising mission of the parish. For more information, visit www.gomakedisciples.org.au or contact the Parish Renewal Team on (02) 9390 5330 or parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

Strategy 4 (continued):**Provide Formation in Evangelisation**

Parish teams, Parish Pastoral Councils and ministry group leaders can promote, and themselves participate in, **formation on the theology and practice of evangelisation.**

Resources

- The Parish Renewal Team will offer reflection days and other formation on the evangelising mission of the parish. This will include catechesis on evangelisation and mission drawing on experienced practitioners. Guest speakers will include Fr James Mallon, Sherry Weddell, Dr Mary Healy, George Weigel, Prof Hayden Ramsay, Peter Holmes, Fr Jacques Philippe and others to be announced, as well as access to contemporary resources. For more information, contact parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5330
- Parishioners seeking to run Alpha in their parish can receive formation and training in the theology and practice of evangelisation in the context of Alpha. Alpha is an 11-week series that creates a space, online or in person, where people can invite their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God. The Parish Renewal Team includes an Alpha Parish Development Coordinator who can answer any questions you have about Alpha and support the implementation of Alpha in your parish including coordinating Alpha training for leaders, providing forums to reflect on best practice when running Alpha, and offering ‘Come and See’ nights for those unfamiliar with this evangelising resource. For more information on Alpha and for parish support, contact Tania Rimac at tania.rimac@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5338
- The following Catholic organisations produce resources which can assist your parish to provide formation in the theology and practice of evangelisation:
 - Two programs from ‘Word on Fire’ Catholic Ministries (hereafter ‘Word on Fire’) provide a good introduction to the theology of evangelisation. The *Catholicism* series offers an overview of the evangelising mission of the Church. *Untold Blessings: Three Paths to Holiness* provides formation on the indivisible connection between discipleship and evangelisation. Online versions can be purchased or rented on ‘Word on Fire’ Digital (www.wofdigital.org/products) or DVDs ordered through the Mustard Seed Bookshop (www.mustardseed.org.au/shop)
 - For a modest fee, the ‘Word on Fire’ Institute provides training on methods and approaches to evangelisation. You may consider investing in the subscription fee to provide access to formation for your leaders and potential leaders: www.wordonfire.institute

Strategy 4 (continued):**Provide Formation in Evangelisation**

Action 2

- The resources below provide foundations in the evangelising mission of the Church:
 - Read *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* by Sherry Weddell
 - Read *Divine Renovation: Bringing your Parish from Maintenance to Mission* by Fr James Mallon on the renewal of parishes through reclaiming their evangelising mission
 - Read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ('*The Joy of the Gospel*')
 - Listen to a talk by Dr Scott Hahn, *Evangelizing Catholics: The Bible, the Eucharist, and the New Evangelization*, available as MP3 download at www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store/title/evangelizing-catholics
 - Undertake a Bible study by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer on evangelisation in the early Church, *Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom*
 - Read *101 Ways to Evangelize: Ideas for Helping Fearless, Fearful, and Flummoxed Catholics Share the Good News of Jesus Christ* by Susan Windley-Daoust

Contact the Mustard Seed Bookshop (www.mustardseed.org.au) to obtain copies of the resources above. Resources on the theology and practice of evangelisation are also available at Parousia Media (www.parousiamedia.com), Pauline Books and Media (www.paulinebooks.com.au), and St Paul's Book Centre (www.stpauls.com.au)

Parishes can **promote online shows and podcasts focused on methods of evangelisation** for everyday life, as formative tools and resources for personal and parish initiatives.

Resources

Action 3

- *This Catholic Life* produced by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney www.thiscatholiclife.com.au
- *Word on Fire Show* with Bishop Robert Barron www.wordonfireshow.com
- *The Divine Renovation Podcast* www.divinerenovation.tv/categories/divine-renovation-podcast
- *Stories from the Street* by St Paul Street Evangelisation www.streetevangelization.com/stories-from-the-street
- *Every Knee Shall Bow* from Ascension Press Media www.media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/every-knee-shall-bow

Strategy 5:

Give Witness to Discipleship

Action 1

Parishes can invite and promote on a regular basis **the stories and testimonies of faith, discipleship and witness of the community** in parish and school publications, highlighting the way in which the Gospel has changed and directed the lives of their people. Samples of such testimonies can be found on the *Go Make Disciples* website www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

Action 2

Parishes can identify suitable occasions and forums for **sharing testimonies of faith** that witness to Christ alive in the community (e.g. during sacramental preparation, in small groups, RCIA, youth groups, or other key parish touchpoints), preferably with a range of speakers with varied life experience. This might include those who have entered the Church through the RCIA, families with powerful stories of growth and change in their lives, or youth who have experienced Christ or served in inspiring ways.

Resources

- The Parish Renewal Team can assist in identifying speakers for such sharing of faith in the local community. Contact the team at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5330

Action 3

Encourage leaders to **learn to develop and share their own testimony** witnessing to the love of God in their lives.

Resources

- The Parish Renewal Team will be offering workshops on practical skills in aspects of evangelisation, such as giving personal testimonies, among others. Contact the team at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5330
- The St Paul School of Evangelisation offers an 'Introduction to Evangelisation' course which includes training on how to deliver a personal testimony www.evangelizationschool.com/spse-courses
- The following blogpost by Catholic Missionary Disciples will support parishioners and leaders to share their story faithfully and effectively: www.catholicmissionarydisciples.com/news/an-indispensable-tool-of-an-evangelist-how-to-give-your-testimony
- FOCUS also provides advice on this skill at www.focusoncampus.org/content/the-power-of-your-testimony
- Read Nancy H C Ward's *Sharing Your Catholic Faith Story: Tools, Tips, and Testimonies*. Find this resource in the Parish Renewal section at www.mustardseed.org.au

Strategy 5 (continued):

Action 3

Give Witness to Discipleship

- *How to Give Your Christian Testimony* podcast is available at www.media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/how-to-give-your-christian-testimony

Strategy 6:

Create a Culture of Invitation

Action 1

In developing an invitational culture, a parish can **dedicate particular Sundays and seasons to inviting those on the margins of faith to participate in parish life** (e.g. in person, online and print invitations to the friends and relatives of parishioners to join the community on Ash Wednesdays, at Confirmations, and at Christmas and Easter liturgies).

Action 2

An invitational culture can also extend to the Stations of the Cross, community Christmas carols, or **any event that nurtures belonging and trust with the community and a hearing of the Gospel message**. Christmas cards or calendars as invitations can also be letterbox dropped in the local neighbourhood.

Action 3

Other events in the parish can be offered to **attract those in the community who would not necessarily be open to attending a religious event**. These are opportunities to connect and offer a warm welcome with the wider community and may include events such as talks on current topics such as parenting, anxiety and other mental health issues.



Strategy 7:

Evangelise Those Who Do Not Know Christ

Parishes can adopt **tools and programs designed to reach out and invite those outside of our community into contact with the Gospel and the Church**. Programs such as Alpha, ChristLife or Sycamore can focus the entire parish on its essential task, which is to offer Jesus to the world. These tools enable people to encounter Christ in a way that is welcoming and non-judgemental, support the training of lay leaders in the practice of evangelisation, and encourage a parish culture where all the baptised are conscious of their vocation to holiness and to missionary outreach and accompaniment of others.

Resources

- The Parish Renewal Team includes an Alpha Parish Development Coordinator who can answer any questions you have about Alpha and support the implementation of Alpha in your parish, including coordinating Alpha training for leaders, providing forums to reflect on best practice when running Alpha, and offering ‘Come and See’ nights for those unfamiliar with this evangelising resource. Alpha is a tool used for evangelisation, it allows people to explore the basics of Christianity in a safe, non-judgemental environment, a place where people are encouraged to ask questions and share experiences. There is no cost to access Alpha resources. For more information about Alpha, visit www.alpha.org.au or contact Tania Rimal for information and support at tania.rimal@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5338
- ChristLife is a program that focuses upon making missionary disciples and equipping disciples for the evangelising mission to which they are called. This program was developed to help parishes reach out in a relational way to make missionary disciples by helping them discover, follow and share Jesus with others. For more information, see www.christlife.org
- Sycamore provides free, informal courses about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It can be offered in small groups in your community, and includes training sessions for anyone seeking to run a group. Sycamore’s ‘Enquiry Pathways’ are aimed at those with little or no Christian background and include topics such as ‘The Search for Happiness’, ‘Who is Jesus?’ and ‘The Power of Prayer’. Sycamore also offers ‘Formation and Renewal Pathways’ for Christian communities, ‘Sacramental Pathways’ for sacramental preparation or catechesis in your parish community, and ‘School Pathways’ for discussion groups and faith formation in schools. These sessions can be accessed by individuals and include training for new leaders about how to run these courses effectively in groups. All courses can be accessed at no cost at www.sycamore.fm

Strategy 8:

Evangelise the Baptised

Action 1

Parish teams or a small team of two or three people can adopt the ‘**Catholics Returning Home**’ program, a six-week resource that can be offered two or three times a year in community. This resource is designed to reach out and invite non-practising or inactive Catholics, welcoming them to re-join the faith community and participate in its sacramental life.

Resources

- For more about the program, visit www.catholicsreturninghome.org. The book *Parish Guide for Implementing Catholics Returning Home Ministry: Outreach to Non-Practicing Catholics* provides additional input and guidance for this program. To obtain a copy from the Mustard Seed Bookshop, visit www.mustardseed.org.au or contact bookshop@mustardseed.org.au or (02) 9307 8350
- The ‘Landings’ program from the Paulist Fathers is a program for welcoming those who are inactive, disconnected or wanting to take another look at the Catholic faith. It is a program best used in a small group setting where people are able to share experiences and re-examine their faith. For more information, go to www.landingsintl.org

Action 2

All relationships benefit from renewal. Offer **programs to help your parish community to renew and rediscover** their relationship with Christ.

Resources

- The Sycamore program referred to in Strategy 7 (see previous page) offers ‘Formation and Renewal Pathways’ for Christian communities that will speak to the already baptised. It includes training for new leaders about how to run the course effectively in groups and is available at no cost at www.sycamore.fm. For training and support in running small groups effectively, contact the Parish Renewal Team on (02) 9390 5330 or parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

Strategy 9:**Build Relationships in the Wider Community**

Action 1

Parish teams and the parish priest can **reach out intentionally to people within the parish area** (such as parents of students at Catholic schools) to build relationships and a shared sense of community and mission. Parishes can provide talks on parenting and family life and ensure school parents are aware of resources such as the Archdiocese of Sydney's newsletter for school parents and families, *Connect*, as well as *The Catholic Weekly*.

Resources

- For further support and ideas for parenting and family formation, contact the Life, Marriage and Family team in the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation on (02) 9307 8480 or steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org

Action 2

Many local communities have **regular markets at which parishes can be a presence** through a stall. This can be an opportunity to engage in conversations, answer people's questions, offer a prayer box to receive people's intentions, and offer small gifts that encourage reflection and prayer.

Resources

- The Parish Renewal Team can help you with ideas and training for such stalls and events. There will also be evangelisation workshops that will offer practical skills for in-person evangelisation. For more information, contact parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5330

Strategy 10:**Schools and Parishes Collaborating for the Evangelisation of Families and Students**

Action 1

Each parish and its associated schools could **share celebrations, liturgical and otherwise, whenever possible** (e.g. parish feast days) in order to strengthen a sense of common identity and mission. For example, parishes and schools could consider a combined 'Commissioning Mass' or similar at the start of the school year, to bring together key leaders as well as groups that serve the faith of the community, blessing them for their evangelising mission in the year ahead and invoking the power of the Holy Spirit upon their ministries. Parish staff, school staff, school students and parents, baptismal preparation teams, CCD catechists, sacramental teams, Alpha teams, Family Educators, and RCIA teams can be included.

Strategy 10 (continued):

Schools and Parishes Collaborating for the Evangelisation of Families and Students

Action 2

Parishes could **invite students from associated schools to take up a variety of ministry roles in the parish** (e.g. as altar servers, youth leaders, catechists, music ministers, Youth Alpha teams). Acknowledgements of service can be an opportunity to draw parents and families into contact with the life of the parish.

Resources

- Students who require work experience, volunteer or community service hours or take part in the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award program could be invited to complete the required hours serving within the parish community
- Students and young adults can be trained to work with youth ministers in street evangelisation to reach those outside the parish. Participants are then encouraged to be a witness and share their experience with the parish and school community to encourage and foster local engagement. For more information, contact Sydney Catholic Youth at info@sydneycatholicyouth.org or (02) 9307 8152
- When asking a young person to volunteer, consider the advice on how to undertake this effectively on page 97 in the chapter on Leadership

Action 3

Each parish should review the availability of, and invitation to, **Masses, sacramental initiation, and RCIA for children in both Catholic and state schools**, to ensure their inclusion in the life of the parish community via various communication platforms including email, postcard invitations, social media and community and digital notice boards.

Resources

- Parishes can work with the Family Educator, Religious Education Coordinator, school Youth Minister or Principal to ensure invitations are sent to students and families
- For support and advice on reaching families of those students in state schools who participate in Special Religious Education, contact the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) at office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au or (02) 9307 8330

Action 4

Parish teams and parents from the parish can **represent the parish community at Catholic school orientation days to welcome and inform new school parents** of activities, programs and support available within the parish and Archdiocese. Parish ‘welcome packs’ can be made available and new parents can be invited to Alpha as a way to meet other new parents and the wider community.

Strategy 10 (continued):**Schools and Parishes Collaborating
for the Evangelisation of Families and Students****Action 4****Resources**

- Parishes can connect with schools about such initiatives through their Family Educator, Religious Education Coordinator or Principal

Strategy 11:**Evangelise Through the Preparation
for and Celebration of the Sacraments****Action 1**

All of the sacraments, and preparation for the sacraments, present parishes with an opportunity to evangelise not only the person or people directly involved in the sacrament but also their wider family and friends who may be in attendance. Whether preparing a child for Baptism, a couple for Marriage, or a grieving family for a funeral, take some time to think about the wider group involved in these sacrament and how you might reach out by word or deed to help them encounter Jesus more deeply, or for the first time.

For example, when a priest attends the wedding reception of a couple he has married, he might ask the bride and groom's permission to offer grace before the meal and take that opportunity to pray for all the married couples at the reception, as well as those who hope to marry someday.

At funerals, the priest can ensure that as much as possible his homily can speak to those in the congregation who do not know Jesus, as well as explaining the symbols and rituals. Grief and bereavement groups in the parish can consider how to support the family and friends of the deceased person through prayers, messages of consolation, and offers of other practical support such as the preparation of meals. If you have a grief or bereavement group in your parish, ask the grieving family if you can pass on their contact details so that the parish group can be in contact as a source of support.

Intercessory prayer groups in the parish could pray specifically for all those who the parish will meet through the sacraments, that these moments may touch their hearts and bring them closer to God.

Strategy 11 (continued):

Evangelise Through the Preparation for and Celebration of the Sacraments

Action 1

Resources

- The parish secretary, sacramental coordinator and supporting volunteers have essential roles to play in ensuring that wider groups with which the parish has contact during the preparation and celebration of the sacraments have an opportunity to encounter Jesus. Dedicating time within the parish team to discuss the formative and evangelising opportunities during these sacraments can surface new ideas and opportunities for this outreach. Parish teams may also like to contact the Parish Renewal Team for support and ideas on (02) 9390 5330 or parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

Action 2

When children undertake sacramental preparation, **invite the parents to attend a parallel course for the development of their own faith**. This parent-based formation might focus on their relationship with God, the life of Jesus, the role of the Church in faith, and the nature and fruit of the sacraments. The Evangelisation and Formation chapters of this Mission Plan outline a number of resources which can be run in a small group format and could serve as a suitable refresher course on the sacraments for parents.

Resources

- For advice and ideas, contact the Sacramental Life and RCIA Coordinator within the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation on (02) 9307 8477 or becomingcatholic@sydneycatholic.org

Action 3

The parish sacramental coordinators can coordinate **ongoing gatherings and reunions of parents of the newly baptised** (e.g. annually for all those baptised in the previous year). Parishes might also consider personalised cards, including a prayer bookmark and saint's medal, on baptismal anniversaries.

Resources

- For advice and ideas for such 'reunions', contact the Sacramental Life and RCIA Coordinator within the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation on (02) 9307 8477 or becomingcatholic@sydneycatholic.org
- For gifts and books, visit the Mustard Seed Bookshop at www.mustardseed.org.au or call (02) 9307 8350. Alternatively, visit Church Stores at www.churchstores.com.au/product-category/christian-gifts-devotional-items or call (02) 9233 2268 or visit Aid to the Church in Need at www.catholicshop.com

Strategy 11 (continued):**Evangelise Through the Preparation for and Celebration of the Sacraments**

Action 4

Parishes and sacramental coordinators can consider ways of strengthening the **integration of catechumens and candidates in the Rite of Christian Initiation into the wider life of the parish** (e.g. some open parish sessions). Consideration can be given to the intentional invitation of catechumens and candidates to other parish ministry groups and social groups prior to Baptism or Confirmation.

Resources

- For advice and ideas, contact the Sacramental Life and RCIA Coordinator within the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation at becomingcatholic@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9307 8477

Strategy 12:**Evangelisation and Youth**

Action 1

Parishes and schools can collaborate to **encourage and support youth to attend events** where there are opportunities to encounter Christ, build community through Christian relationships, and deepen faith through experiences and witness. Such events include World Youth Day, held every three years internationally, and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, a biannual event hosted nationally.

Resources

- For information about World Youth Day, visit www.worldyouthday.com
- For more information about the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, visit www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au
- The Archdiocesan annual youth camp ‘Y-Factor’ occurs each April school holidays and parishes are encouraged to promote and support youth to attend
- For support and assistance in organising parish attendance at these events, contact the Sydney Catholic Youth team (SCY) at info@sydneycatholicyouth.org or (02) 9307 8152

Strategy 12 (continued):

Evangelisation and Youth

Action 2

The **Ignite Conference** is an annual event that serves as an entry point for young people in the Archdiocese to encounter Christ and the Church. The Sydney Catholic Youth team can support youth ministers to engage with young attendees of the conference to grow in belonging and community via various platforms, help facilitate connection between attendees and youth groups, connect with priests, as well as organise follow-up events and initiatives stemming from the Ignite Conference.

Resources

- For general information on the Ignite Conference, go to www.igniteyouth.com
- For more information on the Ignite Conference in Sydney, go to www.sydneycatholicyouth.org or contact the Sydney Catholic Youth team (SCY) at info@sydneycatholicyouth.org or (02) 9307 8152

Action 3

Parishes and schools can work together to **offer Youth Alpha as a tool for evangelisation**. Youth Alpha can be offered during lunch time at school or after school as a way to extend the invitation to youth in the wider community. Parish Youth Ministers, Family Educators, and school Religious Education Coordinators, can work together to establish Youth Alpha and then connect the youth with other parish youth groups post-Alpha, to continue connecting and gathering, to nurture relationships formed and continue building community.

Resources

- For more information or support to establish Youth Alpha, contact Tania Rimac in the Parish Renewal Team at tania.rimac@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5338

Action 4

Youth ministers can be trained in street evangelisation and **partake in the Archdiocesan Night Fever Evangelisation event**. Training will be provided for this outreach initiative which opens conversations around faith and life. During this outreach, leaders will be paired at all times. Participants can be encouraged to share their learnings and testimonies about their experience with their home parishes and local priests to foster parish involvement.

Resources

- For more information, contact Sydney Catholic Youth team at info@sydneycatholicyouth.org or (02) 9307 8152

Strategy 13:**Evangelise through Catholic Social Teaching and Works of Mercy**

As an integral dimension of evangelisation, parishes can **review their wider social engagement through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching** and consider the social issues to which the parish may be better able to respond. Many people come to an appreciation of the Church through a concern for the injustices in society and come to know Catholic Social Teaching and see the work of the Church as it seeks to respond to these injustices. This witness and engagement can open opportunities for them to encounter Christ and His Church.

Parishes have a vital interest in Archbishop Anthony Fisher's strong and public commitment to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking, a fundamental mandate of Catholic Social Teaching.

Archbishop Fisher instituted the Archdiocese of Sydney's Anti-Slavery Taskforce in 2017 and it has since introduced:

- Shop for Good -an ethical purchasing guide for parishes and families. More information including product catalogues is available online www.sydneycatholic.org/solidarity-and-justice/anti-slavery/shop-for-good
- Domus8.7 Australia's first comprehensive socio-legal service for people impacted by modern slavery. This provides a safe and secure response to anyone with concerns of slavery-like practices or labour exploitation.
- The Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network (ACAN). The Anti-Slavery Taskforce coordinated the establishment of this network, made up of 36 Catholic organisations from health and aged care, education, social services, dioceses, the finance and investment sectors. It is focused on eradicating modern slavery from operations and supply chains via a comprehensive risk management program.

For more information on the work of the Anti-Slavery Taskforce, go to: www.sydneycatholic.org/solidarity-and-justice/anti-slavery or contact Alison Rahill at Alison.rahill@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9307 8464

Resources

- The Archdiocese of Sydney's Justice and Peace Office can assist parishes and communities in formation and training for social outreach and engagement in issues of justice and peace. For more information, go to www.justiceandpeace.org.au or contact Fr Peter Smith at peter.smith@sydneycatholic.org or 0408 613 709

Strategy 13 (continued):

Evangelise through Catholic Social Teaching and Works of Mercy

Action 2

Each parish can **review its involvement in the life of the wider community**, and where possible share its facilities and resources with other community groups as appropriate (e.g. disability support, addiction support, bereavement support, seniors', migrant/refugee, and play groups).

Resources

- Some parishes form social justice groups to ensure they maintain awareness and action on these issues. The Archdiocese of Sydney's Justice and Peace Office has produced a booklet *Towards a Social Justice Group* on the purpose of such groups and how to establish them in your local community www.justiceandpeace.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Justice-Peace-Office-Ministry-Resource-2015.pdf
- The Justice and Peace Office also offers workshops on forming and running a social justice group as well as providing formation on Catholic Social Teaching. For more information, go to www.justiceandpeace.org.au or contact Fr Peter Smith at peter.smith@sydneycatholic.org or 0408 613 709
- Work with CatholicCare to convert under-utilised property in the parish to support social housing including accommodation for people with disabilities, those at risk of homelessness, migrants and refugees. For more information, contact Cathy Hammond at cathy.hammond@catholiccare.org or 13 18 19

Action 3

Parishes can **reach out and visit the housebound, those who are sick, and those in nearby nursing homes, hospitals, prisons and detention centres**, promoting these ministries of mercy and accompaniment as an expression of faith and the mission of the parish.

Resources

- For more information and support to build a team of trained volunteer chaplain assistants, contact CatholicCare at www.catholiccare.org/community-services/chaplaincy-services or email Fr Peter Carroll MSC at peter.carroll@catholiccare.org or 13 18 19

Action 4

Each parish should **coordinate and promote practical support to those in need**, e.g. food banks, soup kitchens, a volunteer meal service, St Vincent de Paul Society visits, domestic and family violence assistance, fertility and pregnancy counselling and support.

Resources

- The St Vincent de Paul Society offers help for a range of issues such as addiction, disability, domestic and family violence, finances, food, emergency housing and homelessness. To connect with your local St Vincent de Paul Society conference, visit www.vinnies.org.au/findhelp#!nsw
- Support those services offered in our local parishes, such as those below, and consider whether such a service is needed in your own parish:
 - St Canice's Kitchen in Darlinghurst www.stcanice.org.au/canice-kitchen
 - St Patrick's Breakfast at Church Hill www.stpatschurchhill.org
 - The Kindness Cupboard at Mary Immaculate Parish, Waverley www.catholicweekly.com.au/kindness-cupboard-shows-a-lot-of-heart
 - Manna Foodbox Project at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Fairfield www.facebook.com/OLRFairfield/photos/a.914288222002102/2788038114627094
- For fertility and pregnancy counselling and support contact:
 - CatholicCare at www.catholiccare.org/family-and-Individual-services or 13 18 19
 - Pregnancy Help Australia 24/7 Helpline www.pregnancyhelpaustralia.org.au or 1300 139 313
 - Life Choice www.lifechoice.org.au
 - Diamond Women's Support www.diamondwomen.com.au or 1300 851 592
- For assistance with domestic and family violence contact:
 - Mary's House, a domestic violence refuge in northern Sydney; more information at www.maryshouse.org.au
 - Our Lady of the Way, crisis accommodation for women aged over 55 years old at www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/NSW/Housing/Our_Lady_of_the_Way
- Organisations supporting migrants and refugees:
 - Jesuit Refugee Service provides services, food, accompaniment and advocacy for migrants and refugees in the community www.jrs.org.au/about-us

Action 4

- St Francis Social Services works to uphold the dignity of each person by providing support and advocacy to empower people who are vulnerable and includes the House of Welcome initiative to support refugees and asylum seekers www.stfrancis.org.au
- Other initiatives focused on helping the vulnerable in our community:
 - Matthew Talbot Hostel, accommodation for homeless men https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/NSW/Housing/Matthew_Talbot_Hostel
 - Youth Off the Streets, an organisation to assist homeless and at-risk youth www.youthoffthestreets.com.au
 - St Francis Social Services supports and advocates for disadvantaged young people and their families through their ‘Centre 360’ www.stfrancis.org.au

Parishes can **respond generously to appeals for aid to the poor and disadvantaged**, expressing a faith commitment to social engagement and the service of charity.

Resources

- The Archdiocese of Sydney’s Charitable Works Fund (CWF) supports agencies that help thousands of people every year. These agencies offer comfort to people in crisis, provide advocacy, training and better access for the disadvantaged, support people in their faith development and train our future priests. The CWF supports Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, CatholicCare, chaplaincy services to universities, hospitals and prisons, the Ephpheta Centre for the deaf and hard of hearing, our seminaries, and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (i.e. the ministry of catechists). Parishes can promote their work and invite donations, drawing on resources available at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf
- To fundraise and volunteer for CatholicCare activities that assist the most vulnerable in our society, visit www.curocareforchange.org.au or contact Thomas Ng regarding the CURO program at thomas.ng@catholiccare.org or 13 18 19

Action 5

Sydney parishes can **partner with parishes in developing countries** through agencies such as PALMS and Catholic Mission. Parishes and communities can also support the work of Caritas and Aid to the Church in Need.

Resources

- Palms Australia www.palms.org.au. Contact palms@palms.org.au or (02) 9560 5333

Action 6

Action 6

- Catholic Mission www.catholicmission.org.au. Contact admin@catholicmission.org.au or 1800 257 296
- Aid to the Church in Need www.aidtochurch.org. Contact info@aidtochurch.org or 1800 101 201
- Caritas www.caritas.org.au. Contact questions@caritas.org.au on 1800 024 413

Strategy 14:**Improve Communications for Evangelisation****Action 1**

Be sure to create and regularly maintain a **database of parishioner contacts** or parish ministry contacts including emails and phone numbers. The ability to communicate with parishioners regularly is essential to building community; it is also important should regular face-to-face communication be disrupted as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Good communication is essential to the proclamation of the Good News. As much as possible, parishes should aspire to **adopt new technologies that can help to share the Gospel in attractive and effective ways**. Invest time in training leaders and staff members who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibility for communications, such as the production of bulletins, design and upkeep of websites, social media, electronic newsletters, communications apps, and other media.

Resources

Action 2

- Communications and media workshops will be offered by the Communications and News Media, Digital and Design and *The Catholic Weekly* teams of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, on areas of need as identified by parishes. These quarterly workshops for clergy and lay leaders can include advice and training on skills such as parish photography, the creation of simple news story for sharing on parish websites and social media, advice and guidance on how to respond to media enquiries, tips for the best uses of social media and other means of improving parish communications. To submit suggested areas of training or assistance to support your parish communications or media needs, contact Michael Kenny at michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org or on 0438 046 406. To receive advanced notice of all workshops, sign up to the *Go Make Disciples* newsletter at www.gomakedisciples.org.au

Action 2

- In the second half of 2021, the Communications teams of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation will make available to parishes a parish handbook specifically on communications and media promotion. This will include an overview of ways in which parishes can engage digital and printed media for mission, resources and tools to engage to promote an event or occasion, and ideas for engaging the community in parish activities through design and marketing. For information and advice, contact Peter Rodrigues at peter.rodrigues@sydneycatholic.org or on 0409 608 271

Each parish should **establish and/or develop a website** that is easy to navigate and regularly reviewed so that at least the following are available to visitors online. This website should include:

- a vision that describes the fundamental inspiration, evangelising identity, purpose and aspirations of the parish community
- a welcome message from the parish priest
- details of the parish team with contact details
- an accurate list of contact details for the parish team, ministry and prayer groups operating within the parish
- an up-to-date listing of Mass and Reconciliation times (including special Feast Days and Solemnities)
- a page specifically for Catholics considering a return to the Church as well as for enquirers or newcomers to the faith
- the most recent parish bulletins for reading and download
- an online parish calendar and connected social media that is updated and used to promote events in the life of the parish, deanery and Archdiocese and to connect with their local community
- other relevant forms, including parish registration, sacramental preparation, planned giving, and expressions of interest in ministry, prayer and outreach groups
- links to online faith resources, Archdiocesan agencies and services, parish or school childcare services, local Catholic schools, and to neighbouring parishes
- an ability to submit prayer requests and acknowledgement of receipt of these requests
- photos of joyful and attractive events in the life of the parish

Resources

- Contact the Communications team within the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation for help in developing your website via Michael Kenny on 0438 046 406 or cathcomm@sydneycatholic.org

Action 3

Strategy 14 (continued):**Improve Communications for Evangelisation****Action 4**

Share initiatives, events and positive stories about your parish community that can help to inspire and encourage others in discipleship and evangelisation.

Resources

- The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation's Communications and News Media team and *The Catholic Weekly* team will continue to engage with parishes and invite the sharing of stories, for promotion and awareness via *The Catholic Weekly*, social media platforms of the Archdiocese and the broader media. To share your local parish stories, contact Ben Conolly at benjamin.conolly@sydneycatholic.org or on 0423 151 666

Action 5

Invest time in ensuring that parish staff and leaders learn more about **promoting parish events effectively in your local community**.

Resources

- The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation's Digital and Design team can provide Sydney parishes with templates for typical parish event promotions, working together with each parish to suggest ways in which to streamline and enhance their promotion of events through tools and resources available for such parish communications. This team can also provide advice on the design of parish bulletins, and direct parishes to websites for photos and clipart and the like. For information and advice, contact Peter Rodrigues at peter.rodrigues@sydneycatholic.org or on 0409 608 271





Step 4: Act

In deciding on and then taking these actions forward, the parish priest can work together with the Parish Pastoral Council or relevant ministry leaders to create action groups, sub-committees or a team for evangelisation, established for a definite duration. These groups should ideally include at least one member of the Parish Pastoral Council, to ensure alignment with the wider vision and planning of the parish as a whole, and lead and invite others into these efforts toward renewal.

Your parish can also consider forming a senior leadership team that can focus upon assisting in the ongoing practical strategies and decisions needed to implement the parish plan for evangelisation, which allows the Parish Pastoral Council to focus on the longer term future of the parish. Read more about the role of a senior leadership team to bring the vision of the parish into reality in this Mission Plan's chapter on Leadership.

Looking for Support?

Established by Archbishop Fisher OP in 2020, the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation dedicates itself to the support of parishes, migrant chaplaincies and other Eucharistic communities in their fidelity to the person and mission of Jesus Christ.

Charged with the development and implementation of our Archdiocesan Mission Plan, *Go Make Disciples*, our teams work together with the priests, parishes and communities of Sydney, with the conviction that the encounter with Jesus Christ changes lives.

As well, we believe that every parish and offer Eucharistic community is a true sign and witness to the presence of Christ, a people gathered around the Word and sacraments where faith is nurtured into discipleship and enters the world through words and deeds. In this way, every parish, migrant chaplaincy, and ecclesial movement is a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who keeps us faithful to Jesus in the present and sends us out to share His Good News with boldness.

Whether through assisting local communities in the work of parish renewal, accompanying the newly engaged in their journey to marriage, or sharing the Good News in Sydney through digital media and communications, our staff are committed to serving the spiritual needs of a changing city and suburbs and to supporting the call to discipleship that is made to all.



SYDNEY CENTRE *for*
EVANGELISATION

The work of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is exercised through the following teams:

- 1 **The Parish Renewal Team** supports parishes that are seeking to renew their communities as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of evangelisation and outreach in love and mercy. The team does this principally by providing practical support for parishes and other Eucharistic communities seeking to engage strategies for spiritual and structural renewal outlined in this Archdiocesan Mission Plan, *Go Make Disciples*. For support, contact the team at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5330.
- 2 **Sydney Catholic Youth** serves the commission of Christ to “go make disciples” with young people of the Archdiocese, walking with them toward an ever-deeper encounter with Jesus in the midst of the Church for the transformation of the world. For support, contact the team at info@sydneycatholicyouth.org or (02) 9307 8152.
- 3 **Life, Marriage and Family** provides parish-based marriage and family support, supporting, guiding and building up a culture of life, marriage and family within parishes, migrant chaplaincies and deaneries. For support, contact the team at steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9307 8480.
- 4 **Communications and News Media** promotes the message of the Gospel through sharing the value and good works of the Catholic Church, inviting an awareness of and relationship with Christ and His Church. For support, contact the team at michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org or 0438 046 406.
- 5 **Digital and Design** creatively responds to the call to invite people into an encounter with Jesus, embracing traditional and digital media to ensure this Good News reaches the People of God and the wider community. For support, contact the team at creative@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5327.
- 6 **The Catholic Weekly** serves the Church by disseminating news, information and stories to inform and assist the daily lives of Catholics, their families and parish and migrant communities. For support, contact the team at peter.rosengren@catholicweekly.com.au or (02) 9390 5327.
- 7 **The Mustard Seed Bookshop** stocks a range of resources that support all aspects of evangelisation. Explore their resources for your parish in the ‘Parish Renewal’ section on the bookshop website at www.mustardseed.org.au or in-store at 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. Contact the team at bookshop@mustardseed.org.au or (02) 9307 8350.