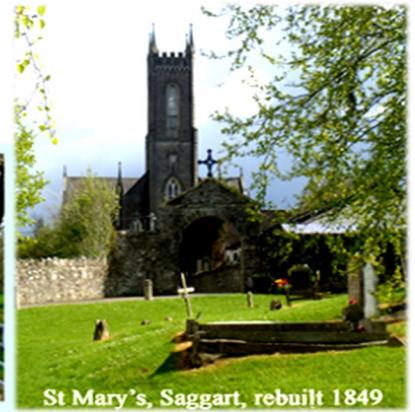


PARISHES OF
SAGGART - RATHCOOLE - BRITTAS
& NEWCASTLE



THE

Building Hope

COFFEE MORNING GATHERINGS

for the Parishes of

Saggart, Rathcoole, Newcastle & Brittas

Questions for thought, reflection &
discussion

Statement of Mission

A year after his installation, Archbishop Dermot Farrell, guided by the *Building Hope* Task Force Report, presents a Statement of Mission for the Dublin Archdiocese. This Statement highlights our core mission in a time of rapid change, setting out a vision for the diocese and providing values to inform our planning for the future.

This is the beginning of our more formal response to the *Building Hope* Task Force Report which is available from <https://dublindiocese.ie/building-hope-task-force-report/>

Having gathered 3,000 consultation responses from people, priests and parishes, the Task Force in its Report sets out a pastoral strategy for the Archdiocese. It is an essential starting point in the process of renewal we must undertake together.



Over time we will become very familiar with this graphic representation from *page 15 of the Building Hope: Task Force Report*.

It is called

The Framework for Pastoral Renewal.

A Brief Explanation

Initially, we are invited to notice the centre circle of the Framework and what flows from that;

1. **JESUS** is at the **CENTRE** of everything.
2. What flows from our relationship with Jesus is our own **FAITH** but also a shared FAITH...and we will look at that...
3. The type of leadership our relationship with Jesus encourages is one which copies Jesus' way of being with people – that is '**SERVANT LEADERSHIP**'
4. **JESUS WELCOMED everyone** and we are called to do the same.
5. When we place Jesus at the centre of all of our life we feel the call to make a difference in the world – to reach out to others in compassion – that's **SOCIAL JUSTICE**.

These are the 4 dimensions that people valued in their faith communities and which now provide a Framework through which to look at **OUR** own communities.

Building Hope Gathering - Initial Key sharing questions

In general, what is a viable Parish?

Are we a viable/sustainable parish and how viable/sustainable are we?

How healthy are our parish finances?

What could we do to improve our current position and plan for a more secure future?

What practical or pastoral steps do we need to take?

What is your opinion of the current grouping of parishes? Do they work well? What could improve?

Is there a neighbouring parish/es that we should develop a supportive partnership with?

Key Questions - Area 1 - Faith

Why do you attend this parish? Go to mass and/or engage with your faith?

Why do you think others do not attend or engage?

What works well? Why?

How important is attendance at Sunday Mass?

Do you feel supported in your faith?

Are there opportunities, apart from Mass, that we have to grow in deeper relationship with Jesus? If not what should be there?

What would be needed to deepen our understanding of faith beyond what was taught at school?

What needs to be developed? In what way?

Key Questions - Area 2 - **Servant Leadership**

What works well in our parish? Why?

We are all called to serve, but how do we affirm the central role of the priest to enable this? Do we, would we or how do we encourage/support vocations?

Do we promote and embrace that we are **ALL** responsible for the development of our parish life together?

What variety of lay ministries are in place? What is missing?

Do we help women to fully take their place in service/in leadership? Why?

Are young people leading in the parish?

Are we reaching out beyond the gates of the parish to those who are in need? How?

What needs to be developed? In what way?

Key Questions - Area 3 - Welcome

What works well in our parish? Why?

Do we pro-actively speak to others about Jesus and the difference he makes in our lives?

In what way are we a welcoming community? How is this experienced/shown?

Who is actively included and who feels excluded by us? Does the stranger (*no matter their race, religion, standing, ethnicity, orientation, etc.*) How & why?

Does our hospitality extend beyond the causal cuppa?

How are we engaging in communications, promoting good communications and communicating the Good News?

What needs to be developed? In what way?

Key Questions - Area 4 - Social Justice

What works well in our parish? Why?

Advocacy means standing up for people's rights, - how does our parish encourage, enable and support this?

Do we actively reach out to those in most need and work together for change?

Do we actively promote solidarity? Whose stories matter to us?

Who are we walking with? What are the key social justices issues in our community and how are we responding, highlighting these?

What groups have no voice in our parish?

In what way is the care of creation a key concern for us?

What needs to be developed? In what way?

Planning into the future

What groups or ministries do we need to encourage, welcome, support (*or establish*) in the parish?

What should be our key focus?

How do we go about encouraging and equipping people to take on these roles?

What supports do we need to have in place to build sustainable ministry teams?

Any other comments or suggestions

If you would be willing to volunteer, discuss these areas more, etc. - please include your details

Name:

Phone:

email:

Area/s of main interest - (underline)

Faith

Servant Leadership

Welcome

Social Justice