

# PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART, EXETER

Following on from the document “A Precious Place of God’s Grace, each parish has been asked to have an audit. I would like each parishioner to consider all the questions in the audit document. Hopefully in January we will be able to have a Zoom meeting to discuss and collate our answers. If you are unable to join in the Zoom Meeting it may be possible to have a socially distanced meeting in the church in the coming months.

*Fr Kieran*

## ***What sort of a parish are we?***

This is an attempt to look at ourselves and to see what we do well and what we perhaps have lost sight of. Many of us are so familiar with how things happen here that we take it all for granted, and perhaps some visitors and newcomers see us very differently. This audit can help us to strengthen what we do well and remind ourselves of things that we might have overlooked. This is a way of helping us reflect on what we experience. It is best done in small groups with general feedback and an agreed consensus. The parish pastoral council or equivalent could facilitate this and perhaps agree priorities with the parish priest. This is intended to be a self-audit – it is designed to assist the priest and people to identify how the parish carries out its mission.

“The Parish community is the human context wherein the evangelising work of the Church is carried out, where Sacraments are celebrated and where charity is exercised, all with missionary zeal”

*The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community n.19*

# WORSHIP & PRAYER

	Statement	Score	Comments
1	The congregation participates fully, actively and consciously in the liturgy.		
2	Congregational singing is an important part of every weekend Mass.		
3	Homilies are relevant to the needs and cares of the people.		
4	Special feast days are appropriately celebrated throughout the year.		
5	Various forms of expression of Catholic spirituality are provided for parishioners (e.g. prayer groups, novenas, days of recollection, missions, devotions, faith sharing opportunities, etc.)		
6	The housebound and the ill are visited regularly with the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick.		
7	The Rite of Christian Initiation is being implemented and involves the entire parish community.		
8	There are options for face-to-face confession, seasonal penitential services and communal penance services with individual confessions.		
9	The celebration of baptism, weddings and funerals involve the parish community.		
10	The weekend Mass schedule promotes quality liturgy, builds a sense of unity and community and reflects the size and diversity of the parish community. Aids are available for those who are disabled or have special needs.		

## SCORING

What is **your** perception? How does it seem to you?

Give a mark to each of the statements above:

5 = I agree very much

4 = I agree

3 = to some extent

2 = not really

1 = no

0 = don't know

Share your answers with the group and agree on overall strengths and weaknesses.

Think of any specific things that the parish could do – one that you could do straight away, one to work on and one to aim to adopt by this time next year.

# COMMUNICATING THE FAITH

	Statement	Score	Comments
1	The parish has its own, or supports, a local Catholic school.		
2	The parish has a nominated Director of Catechesis, who is supported in that ministry, with adequate resources.		
3	The parish offers sustainable religious instruction programmes for adults, families, children and youth.		
4	The parish provides for and supports initial and on-going training and formation for catechists.		
5	The parish encourages and supports parents as the primary religious educators of their children.		
6	The parish has sustainable programmes for adolescents and young adults.		
7	The parish offers a variety of opportunities for adult learning experiences (e.g. Bible Study, speakers, magazines, books, etc.)		
8	The parish supports its lay leaders/volunteers with regular and ongoing in-service programmes.		
9	The parish has programmes that strengthen marriage and family.		
10	Catechesis is provided for parishioners with special needs.		

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# PARISH AS COMMUNITY

	Statement	Score	Comments
1	The parish has an organised programme for new members.		
2	Parishioners with disabilities are included in every aspect of parish life and ministry.		
3	Persons of all races are welcome to participate in the life and ministry of the parish.		
4	All approved liturgical roles are open to both men and women.		
5	Parishioners are encouraged to invite others, who may be estranged or not committed to a church, to come and meet the Lord.		
6	The parish has a way of ensuring the high quality and condition of pamphlets, posters and other material on display in the church buildings, so that they reflect the values of the community.		
7	The parish consistently identifies the talents and interests of parishioners.		
8	Parish organisations regularly invite new people to participate in their activities.		
9	Parishioners are encouraged to use their talents for the good of the parish.		
10	The parish actively involves the elderly, adolescents and young adults in parish activities, in person and through social media and visiting.		

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# MISSION

	Statement	Score	Comments
1	Parishioners understand that they have a responsibility to invite others to meet the Lord Jesus in the believing community.		
2	The parish has a way to train people to become missionary disciples, to know how to reach out to others in faith and to carry this out in practice.		
3	The parish has an evangelisation team reviewing ways of inviting others to meet the Lord through parish life and events.		
4	Parish welcomers are prepared to engage with people who may just be curious and to invite them to come in and introduce themselves.		
5	The parish deliberately uses local community events to present the face of the church in a friendly and unchallenging way.		
6	Weddings, baptisms and funerals are seen as opportunities to invite visitors to explore the Catholic faith.		
7	The entrance to the church has attractive posters and well produced leaflets which can enable people to investigate the faith.		
8	The parish website has information for enquirers and appropriate links and has a presence in social media.		
9	Parishioners are encouraged to invite friends and families to parish social events where some prepared parishioners can be of help in presenting aspects of the faith.		
10	The parish has a group of people who can be asked to support those who may be searching.		

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# CARE & OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

	Statement	Score	Comments
1	Someone – or some group – assists parishioners in meeting their material needs; this has an ecumenical dimension where this is appropriate.		
2	Parishioners respond when invited to volunteer for various parish and ecumenical programmes of service to others.		
3	The parish is sensitive to the needs of families when it schedules ministries, programmes and events.		
4	Awareness of Catholic social teaching is raised through homilies and formal discussion of encyclicals and other church documents.		
5	The parish sponsors or supports local food banks, refugee support, social care projects, etc. and other ways of expressing solidarity with the poor.		
6	The parish opens its facilities to community groups for meetings (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous).		
7	The parish reaches out to those who are in institutions (e.g. nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, etc.) within the parish's boundaries.		
8	Parishioners respond generously to local and national appeals for aid to the poor and needy.		
9	Parishioners participate in peace and justice activities, pro-life activities, letter writing campaigns, CAFOD, missions, etc. The parish is actively involved with Caritas Plymouth.		
10	The parish calls attention to important local and national legislation in light of Catholic social teaching.		

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# ADMINISTRATION

	Statement	Score	Comments
1	People with expertise are consulted in making decisions in the parish with the parish priest.		
2	A variety of people in the parish participate in planning and decision making activities together with the parish clergy.		
3	The parish meets its recurring expenses in a timely manner from operating income, without the need for fundraising or bank loans.		
4	The parish maintains its buildings and facilities in good condition and has a plan for future maintenance and contingencies.		
5	Parish facilities are adequate for the present and future needs of the parish, its people and its programmes.		
6	The parish has active pastoral and finance councils which fulfil their responsibilities as outlined under Canon Law.		
7	Parishioners help care for and maintain parish grounds and facilities.		
8	Parishioners are given opportunities to share in leadership responsibilities by being empowered to use their skills.		
9	The parish has sufficient qualified personnel to run its programmes and to meet the legitimate needs of the parishioners.		
10	The parish has written policies and procedures that enable continuity of operations in the event of unexpected absences or turnover in positions.		

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