

# ARCHBISHOP'S CONSULTATION – LENT 2007

## PART ONE – GROWING IN COMMUNION

Following the completion of part one of the Archbishop's Consultation by parishioners on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the information gathered has been analysed and is outlined below in a qualitative summary and overleaf in a quantitative summary:

### QUALITATIVE SUMMARY OF THE DATA

#### 1. **What and how do we celebrate really well in our parish?**

In general, there was a high level of satisfaction with the way we celebrate Mass, particularly the Easter and Christmas ceremonies. Baptism was also singled out as something we celebrate really well. Many people said that Mass was well attended and that it is warm, welcoming and inclusive of our ethnically-varied parish. The parish priest and his team received much praise.

#### 2. **What needs to be developed in the community at this time? What could we be doing better in the parish?**

Many people suggested that we needed to include teenagers and to provide more activities in the parish aimed at increasing their involvement. Across all the Masses, many people expressed the view that we need to improve and develop music/choirs/congregation singing. It was also suggested that we have more social events so that people could get to know each other across the parish. For example, we could develop more opportunities to celebrate the cultural and linguistic diversity of the parish. There were also requests for improved communication so that all parishioners could be kept informed about the range of activities going on within the parish. The importance of the building project was widely supported and the need to raise more money was highlighted.

#### 3. **How could we exchange our gifts with neighbouring parishes in our deanery? There are eleven parishes in Lambeth Deanery. Can you think of ways in which we could work together?**

There were several very clear, practical suggestions for joint events across the deanery such as coming together for social events, exchanging guest visits and speakers, having a shared newsletter or regular meetings such as a deanery forum or council. There were suggestions that priests could speak/preach in each other's parishes. It was also suggested that we could develop a shared website.

#### 4. **What resources do we need to move our parish and deanery forward?**

Generally, it was suggested that more people need to participate and become involved across the parish and deanery. In particular, people need to come forward to undertake leadership roles around specific activities within the parish and deanery. There were specific suggestions about developing music/choirs, youth activities, facilities for children/crèche, the elderly (assisted transport to Mass), bible study and prayer groups, and longer church opening to facilitate private prayer. The importance of premises was widely acknowledged. Specific requests to support particular groups included Forum Christi (16-30 year olds); Charismatic renewal; Life in the Spirit; retreats for young families.

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**QUANTITATIVE SUMMARY OF THE DATA**

<b>Combined Responses - All Masses</b>	
<p>Question 1: What and how do we celebrate really well as a parish?</p> <p>Mass (91)            Major feasts (56)            Sacraments (33)            Welcome/community (24)            Children's liturgy (16)            Ethnic diversity (9)            Music (7)            Good priest (17)            Liturgy teams (9)            Social events (7)            Communications (3)            Fair Trade (2)            Political and social awareness            Music evenings            Homilies            Continuity            Support of parishioners (generosity)            Good readers</p>	<p>Question 2: What needs to be developed in the parish community at this time/ What could we be doing better?</p> <p>Youth (33)            Music (28)            Premises (19)            Resources for children's liturgy (9)            Support for elderly (5)            Communications (5)            Mass in polish (4)            Sense of belonging (3)            Home visits (3)            More priests (2)            Dual language newsletters            Scripture classes            English languages            Prayer groups            Less music            Bring back the organ            More support for Cafod            More masses            Earlier masses</p>
<p>Question 3: How could we exchange our gifts with neighbouring parishes in our deanery? Can you think of ways we could work together?</p> <p>Share specialisms/talents/ideas (18)            Parishioners visiting (18)            Priest to speak/preach in each other's parishes (13)            Share prayer and liturgy (11)            Using website and blogs (9)            Inter-parish meetings (8)            Create a forum to exchange info and ideas (6)            Share social events (8)            Share premises projects (2)            Why deanery - what about neighbouring parishes?</p>	<p>Question 4: What resources do we need to move our parish and deanery forward? Resources could include people, facilities, ideas and initiatives. Tell us which resources you think are most needed and why.</p> <p>People to lead/encourage participation (e.g. priests, deacons, leaders, educators, translators, volunteers) (49)            Premises (5)            Ideas (5)            Training (4)            Money (2)            Schools involved (2)            Married priests            Women priests            Catholic Alpha courses            Life in the Spirit courses            Bridge, chess, poker groups            Youth provision CYO            Forum Christi (16-30s)            Don't feel part of deanery, do feel part of diocese.</p>