

11 November 2019

Dear Sister Clare and Members of the Writing Group,

Eleven members of the Liturgy Team at St Kevin's Parish in Templestowe, Melbourne met and attempted to discern the question: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful and Eucharistic?

In our parish, have Wednesday night adoration and a weekly meditation group. However, we are very aware of and we express concern for those who struggle to find the Eucharist meaningful and relevant. The number of people who participate in the Eucharist regularly is low.

While we could blame Sunday sport or weekend shopping, we believe that God is calling us to look at our Eucharistic celebration and make it more accessible to the 21st century mind. As we said in our original submission to the Plenary Council, "the language (of the liturgy) is convoluted and the word for word translation is ineffective in ensuring that the people of God can fully participate in worship. It does need to be a more contemporary celebration.

The Scripture passage of the Road to Emmaus (*Luke 24:30-31*) reminded us of how important the Eucharist is in coming to recognise Jesus. Therefore, our Liturgy Team respectfully suggests that the Plenary Council:

1. puts in place a process, to add a couple of responses to the Eucharistic Prayer, which fit in with the general thrust of the particular Mass (taking them from the responsorial psalm or prayer at start of Mass) This way linking the 2 parts of the Mass.)
2. arranges to have linguistic experts rewrite the three "presidential prayers ".so that they are more relevant and meaningful to contemporary Australians.
3. recommends that all language of liturgy is inclusive. The exclusive use of "brothers, men etc has left us vulnerable to the accusations of being sexist.
4. restores the Third Rite of Reconciliation to encourage a greater participation in this sacrament. The banning of the Third Rite has had the unforeseen consequence of "people voting with their feet" and staying away from all forms of the sacrament. As a result, our people have missed out on the exposure of the consequences of sin to our society as well as to themselves.
5. encourages the use of modern technology to make the liturgy more relevant for our people.
6. encourages school Religious Education Leaders, in conjunction with presiders, to simplify the Mass in form and language when a large proportion of the congregation is children.
7. widens the criteria for priesthood beyond male celibate to at least include "Viri probati" because we are aware of country Dioceses shortage of priests & our own Melbourne diocese is increasingly having to "merge" parishes; often with the consequences of even fewer people coming to Mass.

At the heart of the changes we seek is the belief that, in order to spiritually feed 21st century Australians, the liturgy needs to be accessible and relevant to them. It needs to be expressed in plain, contemporary Australian English, but also it should reflect - in a way that is culturally appropriate for our community- the fundamental Catholic values of inclusiveness, acceptance and dialogue.

Many thanks for your valuable endeavours,

From the St Kevin's Templestowe Liturgy Team