

Feedback on the Parish Survey

(25 March 2012)

Good Morning/Evening,

My name is Mark and I am a member of the St Declan's Parish Council.

On behalf of the council I am here to give you some feedback on the parish survey that was conducted a few weeks ago and to convey our thanks for the many responses we have received. Over 370 surveys were returned.

I will go through the results and talk briefly about some of the suggestions put forward.

The first question asked if this is a good parish to belong to and to rate your level of satisfaction. A rating of 1 meant that you were not satisfied while a rating of 5 meant you were very satisfied. I am pleased to let you know that 97.1% rated St Declan's Parish a 4 or 5.

The second question asked you what you thought was good about the parish. There were lots of good things said about St Declan's. In summary:

- 43% mentioned the community involvement and the friendly nature of the parish
- 30% mentioned the priests (Fr John and Fr Thu)

Other notable mentions included the singing, music, youth involvement and the inclusive nature of the parish.

The third question asked how you thought the parish could improve. There were a number of suggestions that included:

- More social events
- Air Conditioning in the church
- Sermons on website for hearing impaired parishioners
- More guest speakers at homily
- More involvement of other cultures

In regards to the suggestions of air conditioning, it had been noted that at previous parish council meetings, over some 8 years, quotes were done to install air conditioning in the church. Unfortunately, we have had a couple of issues. On both occasions the quotes have been over \$150,000 and secondly the companies involved have not been able to guarantee that the air conditioning will work, due to the high ceilings in the church. Not to mention the ongoing cost of electricity and maintenance to run the system.

The fourth question in the survey asked what the parish could do to make it easier for you to be involved. Again there were a number of suggestions including;

- More Communication via web, email, newsletter, bulletin and noticeboard
- More social activities
- More social prayer or rosary

And finally you were asked if there were any **additional comments**. Again there were many good things said about the parish. A couple of suggestions were:

- Direct Debiting for weekly contributions, and
- The need to continue to look after the poor and elderly in our parish

A recurring theme in the survey was around having more social activities in the parish. In previous years we have attempted to form a Social Committee, but with little response. We will, however, in future continue to call for parishioners to assist in organising social activities on a more regular basis. If you are keen to be part of this committee, please contact the parish office by phone or email and leave your name and phone number for the parish council to get in touch with you.

There were more suggestions that the parish council will look at and if feasible or practical will act upon.

For full details of the Parish Survey, please see the noticeboard in the foyer or the parish website.

In the coming months the Parish Council will work to address your suggestions and responses that have arisen from this survey.

Please continue to check the parish noticeboard, bulletin and website for updated parish information. Parish Council minutes will continue to be posted on the noticeboard.

Once again, thank you for completing the survey. Your responses have given us an opportunity to look at possible ways of sustaining the parish's vibrant and inclusive culture and improving its facilities and resources.

Thank you.