

Blue Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council News.

We gathered via Zoom on July 31 and we would like to update you on some of our discussions;

Not surprisingly we decided to postpone our September Gathering of Talents. Having said that we were buoyed by the interest we received via the surveys returned after the concept was launched in late June.

From St Thomas Aquinas we received 30 replies and people were interested in **all** the proposed workshops with 13 keen to explore initiatives for Outreach/Pastoral Care.

At Our Lady of Nativity, there were proportionally less replies but all except one proposed workshop attracted interest. Laudato Si and the Environment together with Social Justice workshops attracting the most interest.

Significantly, 8 parishioners from both of the above parishes nominated themselves to facilitate workshops on the day.

There were 16 surveys returned to St Finbar's at Glenbrook, and again every proposed workshop except one had at least one person interested. The most popular choices were Pastoral Care/Outreach, Adult Faith Formation, Sacramental Program and Music Ministry workshops.

Both Our Lady of the Way at Emu Plains and Sacred Heart Parish at Blackheath have been unable to fully launch the information about the Gathering of Talents due to the lockdown. These parishes will have to wait until much later before they can continue the process of consulting their communities. The Upper Blue Mountains parish of St Mary of the Cross McKillop did manage to launch the "Gathering", but due to lockdown no parishioners as yet have returned the surveys.

You can all be assured we will try to transform your interest into action when some normality returns to our church and community.



Next week there will be some news about some other initiatives discussed at our Deanery Pastoral Council meeting.

Compiled with information provided by **Deanery Council members** : Kim Crawford and Vic O'Callaghan (Springwood) Elizabeth Rowe, Beth Gibbeson and Gerard Egan (Glenbrook) Matthew Brawn (Upper Blue Mountains) Carol Burke and Kay Walker (Emu Plains) Michelle Davis and Julie O'Keefe (Blackheath) and Maureen Ryan and Carol Teodori (Lawson) and our Dean, Fr John Mc Sweeney.