

Q3. As a parish/chaplaincy do we know who are the people who feel marginalised or separated from the parish/chaplaincy and society?

I wonder if many people who haven't been in the Parish for a long time may feel marginalised with it taking so long for the congregation to begin to speak to new people and there being so few opportunities for talking with people.

- The elderly who live in care homes and cannot get out, or alone in their own home with limited mobility and no means of transport.
 - Young mums whose social network opportunities have suddenly closed whilst facing the challenge of caring for an infant/toddler.
 - Young people whose only role (or sense of involvement) within the parish can be being taken to church each week.
 - People who are new to the parish and feel unwelcomed (there are many cases of people attending Mass for weeks and months and no one attempting to break the ice and get to know them or make them feel welcome).
 - People who feel or have been made to feel unworthy or unwelcome, be it because of sexual orientation, being single parents, divorced or separated, etc, etc.
 - People who are unemployed.
 - People who are disabled.
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Q4. How best can our parish respond? Suggest at least two identifiable ways (an immediate action and a long-term change) in which, as a parish, we will reach out to, and listen to, the marginalised...

Create a culture of being welcoming and friendly, such as getting into the habit of looking out for unfamiliar faces and staying behind for a few minutes after Mass to chat to people.

Provide more opportunities for fellowship outside of Mass

- Over a period of time, a culture change is required so that a parish community becomes a genuine social and spiritual hub where all feel valued, significant and cared for. The mantra should be: "Active involvement promotes sustained involvement."
- The internal structures of our church buildings need altering; neither has a narthex where people can greet and chat with each other (this can't really be done within the main body of the church as it disrupts the prayerful silence). As things are at present, people can walk into Mass and walk out at the end and have no real encounter with another human being – it takes a significant effort and bravery NOT to do this.
- Proper training for an expanded welcome ministry team that goes beyond a smile and handing out hymnals.
- Youth clubs, an expansion of altar service and other ministries during Mass and opportunities for real works of charity in the community for young people.
- Developing a parishioner-run taxi service to enable those who might not otherwise get to Mass to do so.
- Mother and baby/toddler coffee mornings, etc.
- Catechesis groups, so that those who feel they don't know enough about their faith (all of us?) may, in a safe, non-judgemental setting, deepen their understanding of their faith.