

Making better use of technology to communicate and engage	
The Parish Assembly identified the need to utilize technology more effectively for communicating updates, offering learning opportunities, encouraging engagement, and potentially facilitating online discussions.	
Website	Facebook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Make the website more welcoming and informative.</li> <li>○ Enable potential and new parishioners to find out more about the Parish and how they can find out more/get involved.</li> <li>○ Provide information on groups, Ministries and other opportunities to engage.</li> <li>○ Reports and ability to input to Councils. Including photos and profiles of members.</li> <li>○ Ability to identify as a new parishioner.</li> <li>○ Ability to submit questions, raise issues and even request prayers etc. from website.</li> <li>○ Publish the Bulletin and additional notices on a page rather than as a pdf document.</li> <li>○ Publish the homilies each week. Consider video of homilies.</li> <li>○ Provide links and commentary on resources for spiritual development for children, youth, young adults and adults.</li> <li>○ Review the capabilities of the current website hosted by the Archdiocese and consider commercial hosting if needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Key notices and announcements.</li> <li>○ A focus on different groups and Ministries, what they are, what they give from members perspectives, invitation to participate.</li> <li>○ Celebrations of key events/dates.</li> <li>○ Video of homilies.</li> <li>○ Requests for support/input.</li> <li>○ Prayers and reflections e.g. for specific events, issues or dates.</li> <li>○ Answering questions put forward by parishioners.</li> </ul> <p>To reinvigorate our Facebook presence posts must be regular, informative and engaging.</p>
WhatsApp	Also for consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multiple WhatsApp groups that meet specific needs, such as possibly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reflections and resources such as those relevant to the readings and Gospel for the upcoming Sunday Mass and/or are relevant to current issues.</li> <li>○ Prayer group – everyone on the list prayers for intentions that are posted here.</li> <li>○ Key Parish notices, messages and events.</li> <li>○ Council/Ministry/group specific.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Parishioners can sign up for one or more group according to their interests/needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Broadcasting Masses including weekday Masses.</li> <li>○ Videos of homilies.</li> <li>○ Short video reports from councils/groups/Ministries to be played at Mass and disseminated through other technology.</li> <li>○ Short video clips for key messages/events to be played at Mass and disseminated through other technology.</li> <li>○ Chat/discussion groups, moderated and without anonymity for members posting.</li> </ul>
<p>What do you think? Feedback, questions, and ideas welcome.</p> <p><a href="mailto:belconnennorth@cg.org.au">belconnennorth@cg.org.au</a></p>	



## Our Lady of Perpetual Help 2025 Parish Assembly Summary for parishioners

The Our Lady of Perpetual Help 2025 Parish Assembly was held on 23 February 2025. Over 40 parishioners attended. Discussions were sparked using extracts from the Vatican Instruction: *The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community* and associated questions. A report was prepared analysing and synthesising the input of everyone involved. This report is available on the Parish Website. Hard copies are available in our Churches. This summary has been prepared to give all parishioners a quick and easy view of the results of the Assembly and the direction that the Parish is heading for the next three years.

The key themes that rose out of the Assembly discussions were:

- **Community:** A vibrant and inclusive Parish community fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose, empowering parishioners to live their faith in their daily lives.
- **Communication:** Effective communication is essential for building a stronger community and empowering parishioners to grow in knowledge, understanding and faith.
- **Roles and responsibilities:** The roles of Parish Priest and Religious are recognised and cherished. The wonderful model of Christian life and community that Fr Mick and Sr Kate provide is greatly appreciated. Increasing the participation of Parishioners in Parish life and the Sacraments is vital for a thriving Parish.
- **The Sacraments, the Church and spiritual growth:** Celebrating and deepening the understanding of the Sacraments strengthens individual and communal faith.
- **Outreach:** Engaging with individuals in need within the Parish and the wider community allows the Parish community and its members to embody the teachings of the Word of God, which is our fundamental purpose.
- **Evolution:** Evolution is needed rather than revolution. Continuous improvement, building on our strengths and adapting to emerging needs and social pressures are crucial for a thriving Parish.

### We want your input!

Please take the time to let us know what you think and your ideas. Feedback can be sent to [northbelconnen@cg.org.au](mailto:northbelconnen@cg.org.au). Feedback sheets are available at the back of the Church. You can fill one in and return it to the church during the next two weeks. This is your Parish. This is your community. This is an opportunity to influence the direction the Parish for the future. Please join us in doing so. Fr Mick, Sr Kate and the Parish Pastoral Council.

Community	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support those of us in need. Lists of people who can provide emergency meals, transport, practical help etc.</li> <li>○ Connect with the members of our Parish who are housebound, sick, lonely or otherwise in need. This includes parishioners taking Communion to the sick, visits to the housebound and/or aged care facilities.</li> <li>○ At baptisms, marriages, funerals, Easter and Christmas welcome those who are not regulars or might not be Christian. Provide the information they need to participate with reverence.</li> <li>○ Mum and Bubs and Family Groups.</li> <li>○ Working with schools and parents to engage children beyond celebrating their Sacraments.</li> <li>○ Youth group/s and activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Greeters on a roster who wear name tags and focus on welcoming new, isolated and irregular visitors and parishioners.</li> <li>○ Reinstate new parishioner cards/registration and follow up with them.</li> <li>○ Encourage people to connect. This includes regular morning teas (including during week) and possibly meals (bbq's, Fish Fridays) with seating arrangements that help people engage.</li> <li>○ Events including celebrations, social/community events, retreats, workshops, guest speakers.</li> <li>○ Continue with the groups that are working well, review those that might need support or to go, consider new ones (including reinstating some).</li> <li>○ Provide opportunities for the two Churches in the Parish to come together; ensure that groups and activities are open to all.</li> </ul>
Communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use simple language and describe what might be unfamiliar.</li> <li>○ Develop a clear picture of what the Parish is currently doing and share it.</li> <li>○ More information on what is happening in other parishes and possibly other Christian communities that parishioners could be part of.</li> <li>○ Announcements at Mass before the recessional hymn.</li> <li>○ Photo board (including on website) of key people including photos, role, profile and contacts.</li> <li>○ Rest in Peace board with photos of parishioners who have died.</li> <li>○ More information about what is happening with councils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leaflet for new parishioners.</li> <li>○ Parish calendar.</li> <li>○ Reports from different groups each month.</li> <li>○ Improve the Parish Bulletin (paper and online) so that it gives more information about events, needs etc. and identifies good faith resources.</li> <li>○ Seek input from parishioners: suggestion box, prayer box, simple surveys, regular get togethers to discuss issues/things we can do and allow the presentation of ideas to the councils.</li> <li>○ Harness the power of technology (see the back page for more detail).</li> </ul>
Roles and responsibilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Personal invitation to individuals to take up particular roles or small tasks.</li> <li>○ Open roles such as preaching, taking Communion to the housebound, visiting, etc.</li> <li>○ More female servers. More older acolytes.</li> <li>○ Make the most of the diversity of our Parish, including on councils etc.</li> <li>○ Ask parishioners what they would like to get involved with, what they and others need.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Make the Parish councils more visible and interactive. Open up conversations and feedback with parishioners.</li> <li>○ Train, coach and mentor those taking on new roles.</li> <li>○ Enable individuals and groups to identify needs, and potentially address them.</li> <li>○ Help parishioners with similar interests/life stages to connect, support and learn.</li> </ul>
The Sacraments, the Church and our spiritual growth	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Celebrating Mass as a community is central to celebrating and living our faith. Some worried that there wasn't enough joy in our celebration. Others were worried about the loss of solemnity and reverence.</li> <li>○ We must aim to inspire engagement with the Sacraments, not just attendance.</li> <li>○ Major occasions such as baptism, First Holy Communion etc. celebrated as part of the Parish.</li> <li>○ Offer the Third Rite of Reconciliation at Christmas and Easter.</li> <li>○ Support individual, group and Parish spiritual growth through providing information, tools, talks, retreats, libraries, Bible study discussions and more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We must aim to inspire engagement with the Sacraments, not just attendance.</li> <li>○ Focus on unity through prayer and song in the Mass.</li> <li>○ Celebrate the diversity of our community; involve them in the Mass. This might include monthly cultural masses.</li> <li>○ Children's liturgy. Family masses.</li> <li>○ Open the Churches for quiet reflection and prayer. Advertise this sanctuary.</li> <li>○ Increase participation in the Ministries (reading, music, servers etc.) including women, older members and youth.</li> </ul>
Outreach	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work with other Parishes, Christian communities and agencies rather than trying to do it alone.</li> <li>○ Continue to support St. Vincent de Paul and their amazing charitable works. Consider other ways to help them and other charitable organisations.</li> <li>○ Parish group to visit the isolated, housebound and sick and nursing homes.</li> <li>○ Care program: emergency meals, transport, practical help where needed.</li> <li>○ Feed the homeless and those in need.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enable parishioners and groups to identify areas of need and a) raise them and even b) work with others to address them.</li> <li>○ Promote the Church in local media, informing and inviting others.</li> <li>○ Open community events to others.</li> <li>○ Offer hospitality (accommodation, transport, companionship) for those from a regional parish/es coming to Canberra for medical treatment.</li> </ul>
Evolution	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have clear ways for people to raise issues, needs and suggestions.</li> <li>○ Follow through on initiatives and let the Parish community know what is happening.</li> <li>○ Treasure our traditions but be open to change; open to taking action/risks and adjusting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regularly get together to discuss issues and suggest change, not just once every three years.</li> <li>○ Engage with the diversity of our community, including in discussions and on councils etc.</li> <li>○ Look towards the needs of the broader community as well as inwards at our own Parish needs.</li> </ul>