

What we heard

City South Parishioner Survey Summary

Understanding the needs and aspirations of the Rosebery, Waterloo and Redfern parishioners is the first step toward realising the vision for City South. In September, a survey was made available to parishioners in hardcopy and online via the Survey Monkey platform. The survey was open for a period of three weeks from 9 September to the 30 September 2018, and included a mix of open ended and multiple choice questions.



75 surveys completed

- ✓ 48 hardcopy surveys
- ✓ 27 online surveys

Many survey respondents value the strong sense of community which already exists, noting that it is one of the best things about their parish. Respondents highlighted how much they appreciate their connection with parishioners and priests in their parish. It was acknowledged that there is an opportunity to strengthen this sense of community and reach out to those in need. Respondents also acknowledged the importance of their Christian faith, describing the ways they express this faith in the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments, as well as through acts of charity and kindness.

“We live in a global world and yet this is an oasis of small town village community. Everyone knows everyone and is willing to chip in.”

Survey Respondent

What does Love, Truth and Beauty mean to you?

While it is envisioned that City South will be a Catholic Community of **Love, Truth and Beauty**, these tenets of faith mean different things to different people.



Parishioners see **love** in the community and their relationships with each other through acts like helping, sharing and caring. Parishioners hope to further realise love in the Catholic Community of City South through activities that promote connectedness, inviting new groups into the parish and engaging in more service and outreach initiatives.



Parishioners see **truth** in God’s Word experienced through the Gospel, liturgies and teachings as well as our actions. Parishioners want to further express and experience truth by encouraging a culture of transparency and honesty in their parish community.



Parishioners generally see **beauty** in the physical and spiritual aspects of their faith, from the flowers displayed in the church to people’s ability to accept one another regardless of their differences. Parishioners hope to see beauty in the future through keeping their spaces of worship clean and promoting collaboration between different groups.

How do we currently participate in our faith community?

60%

of survey respondents attend Mass once a week

43%

of survey respondents have been with their parish for 20+ years while only 5% have been with their parish for less than a year

96%

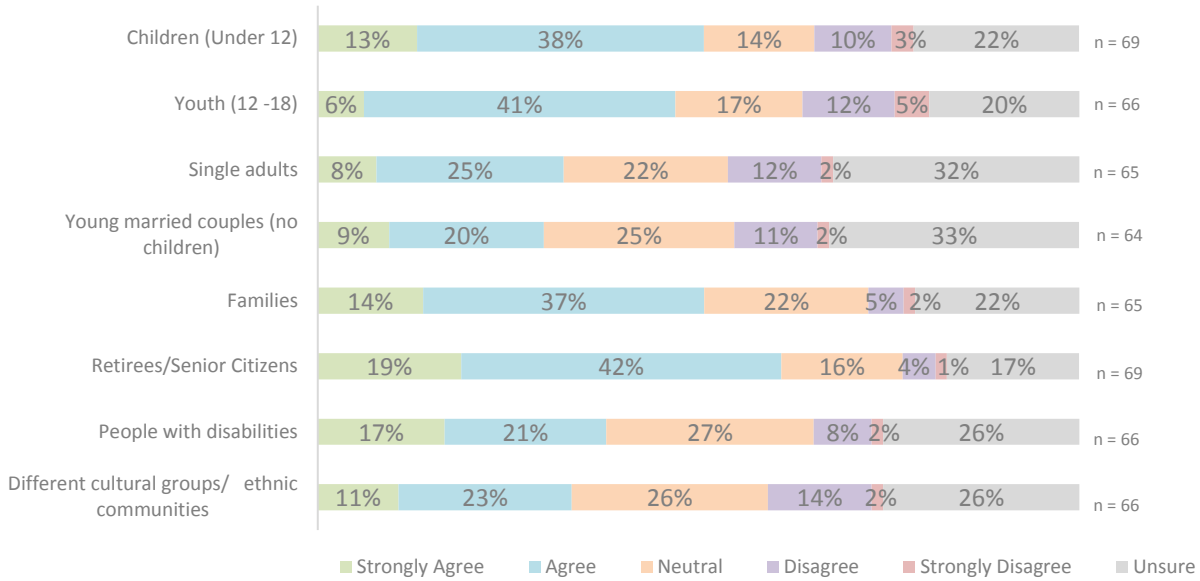
of survey respondents currently participate in their parish by attending Mass, while 65% participate by supporting the parish financially and 44% participate by sharing their faith with others (Note: respondents could select multiple ways they participate in the parish)

Are we currently meeting the needs of our parishioners and the broader community?

74%

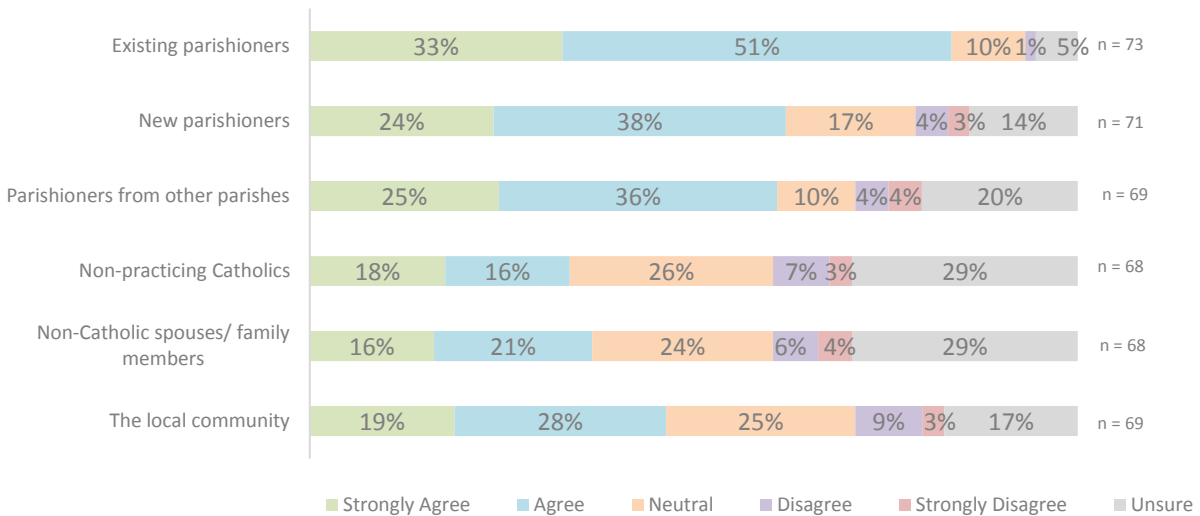
of survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their parish/parish community currently meets their needs. While parishioners enjoy the structure of mass and the quality of the sermons, it was suggested that there is an opportunity to explore different ways of expressing our faith in the Mass

When asked whether your parish has ministries and activities which meet the needs of different parishioner groups, the following responses were provided (note: n= number of respondents):



When asked what would encourage you to attend Mass more often or participate more fully in the local faith community, 50% selected ‘a stronger sense of community/ more opportunities to get to know other parishioners’. ‘More or different social events and activities’ (34%) and ‘opportunities to include/welcome non-practicing Catholics and people of other faiths’ (34%) were also popular answers.

When asked whether your parish reaches out to, and welcomes, different groups, parishioners provided the following responses (note: n= number of respondents):



What do you want the future Catholic Community of City South to look like?

- ✓ Parishioners are keen to see faith programs (57%), Catholic aged care facilities (52%) and adult education programs (49%) in the future City South area
- ✓ Parishioners would like a café (54%), community meeting spaces (52%) and a 24 hour chapel (45%)
- ✓ Majority (58%) felt that it was important to have a range of Catholic schools in the area
- ✓ Over half (59%) of parishioners who responded to the survey felt that ‘word of mouth’ was a good way to reach out to those outside of the local faith community. ‘Distribute information to the community’ (45%), ‘collaborate more closely with local community groups’ (40%) and ‘hold a Parish Open Day’ (38%) were also popular answers
- ✓ Moving forward, parishioners would like us to hear from us via announcements at Mass (79%) and the Parish News (60%)

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the parishioner survey. Your feedback is currently being used to create a set of principles which will guide the future of the Catholic Community of City South.