

## **Driver – Who or what drives the community?**

### **Do we have backseat drivers?**

God, the Holy Spirit drives the people

Parish priest is the catalyst

No backseat drivers here!

The backseat drivers are the Sunday only worshipers

People work and can only go at weekends

Backseat drivers are the people not coming to Mass at all

How can we get them in the front seat?

Sometimes we should listen to backseat drivers

The Holy Spirit blows where God will

Parishioners drive the community

Parish groups are the backseat drivers

Backseat drivers must get involved

Younger generation must be involved and be in the front

Older generation passing on encouragement to the younger generation

Children are the future drivers

The Young can also be drivers eg Youth Synod in Rome

Personal relationships and recognising friends/parishioners can help

Parents can be drivers passing faith on to their children

## **Passengers – Who is in the car?**

### **Is there room for others? The young? Other cultures?**

Room for everybody, in practice this does not happen

Yes! Yes! And Yes!

How can we make it happen?

Not only on-off events

Young – we want to know them without fear

Oldies need to be vulnerable

All be more open, more aware

Yes to all, but too few young people; need a bigger car so more can come together

Passengers/congregation – always room for more!

Children and teenagers and parents and grandparents and great grandparents and extended family members

Lonely old people

Homeless

Any and all ethnic communities

Visibility of the Indian and Polish communities – better integration

Yes, there is room and opportunities

What are we doing to attract people?

Become engaged with others and listen to them

## **Fuel - what energises and what de-energises?**

Prayer and fellow parishioners

Community groups outside of Mass times

The Word of God should fuel us

Faith

Coming together

Prayer Nights

Sacraments

Love, compassion and understanding

Sense of community

Listening to each other

Whole parish events

Being alert, involved with others

Make people more interesting in parish – new voices

Being empowered

### **De-energisers**

Latecomers and early leavers

No showers

Distractions

No ongoing formation

Apathy

Running out of steam

Not knowing how to get involved

Lack of listening to suggestions

## **Boot - does it contain resources or baggage? Is there anything weighing us down?**

Not being able to let go

Lack of training

Lack of personnel ie volunteers

Shyness in coming forward

Lack of confidence

The internal politics of parishes

Age not relating to youth

Breaking tradition

Chain of same volunteers

There's a lot of old, unimaginative fuddy duddies – me!

We need the old but not 'death giving' fuddy duddies

Frightened to make suggestions

Need for new blood

Too 'humble' to accept

Resources – diversity of active groups

History and lack of young people participating – disagree!

Helping neighbours – we are good at this

Helping extended family

Baggage – people want to help but don't know how – walking on eggshells

Need more talking and communication – two way

Who can point me in the right direction?

We need clear expectation of involvement

Too many small groups who don't mix

People willing to help but afraid to put themselves forward

A placard saying 'We have always done it this way and are not open to change and don't sit on my seat' and an old suitcase...

## **Destination – where are we going? What does that mean for existing parishioners, for new ones?**

A warm welcome

A new church

Heaven

A better world

Stronger community here

What does it mean? New lease of life – challenge for us

New friends, extension of the norm

Helping others offering lifts

One community of faith all together

Excitement – we are all the same

All aiming for the same

Merger harder to realise as long as the individual churches remain functional

A united parish

Open and friendly

Approachable and understanding

Challenge moving out of our comfort zone

Build real community, emphasising all pastoral needs

Meet each other as individual people

Learn to listen and tolerate

Explore possibilities

Respect and carry out decisions that have been made

Ministries time limited

Change Mass times and seats

A deeper relationship with God and community

Open to the needs of others on our journey

# How do we take our foot off the brake?

The brakes are:

Tradition

Our comfort zone

Judgment of others

Fear of rejection/criticism

Clunky Mass translation

Fear of failure

We need:

Openness to the Holy Spirit

To change!

Christ-centred mission

A forgiving parish culture

Unity in God - All Catholics together

Love and compassion and inclusivity

Appreciation of individuals and their gifts

Appreciation of what we have

Love one another

Transparency about the abuse crisis

Feedback

Lay leadership training

Faith formation must be ongoing

Readily available information

Baptisms and Weddings in Newsletter

