

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the Murrumbateman community as an item for consideration by the Parish Pastoral Council. I canvassed the people on our Murrumbateman email list and received a total of 16 replies. Their comments extend for 10 pages so I thought I would just provide you with a summation of the main themes and a couple of suggested action items.

The respondents came from a variety of backgrounds some of them were living alone, some were elderly, some were parents of teenagers and young adults and some were parents of small children.

The respondents were a pragmatic lot who recognise the difficulties of providing a service in Murrumbateman during the pandemic. Several mentioned their gratitude to Father Mick, Bob Nash and Peter Cleary for the work that they had done in creating a Covid-safe environment for the celebration of Mass in Yass and for the inclusion of Murrumbateman parishioners as part of the roster on Sundays. They generally feel a strong connection with the Yass community.

#### **Where are they attending Mass?**

- 8 people/families were attending in Yass mainly on Sunday mornings
- 6 people/families were in isolation and using Zoom and now online masses
- 2 were going to Canberra or had children who attended the Latin Mass in Canberra

#### **The Murrumbateman community**

While everybody appreciated the challenges of the current situation and were very appreciative of the Mass in Yass there was a hope expressed that Mass would be resumed in Murrumbateman when the restrictions are eased. Communication was another key concern and there was significant interest in creating semi-regular Zoom liturgies (8 respondents) and resuming some kind of regular E-newsletter (8 respondents) about people and events. There was also a hope expressed that as the weather improves, there may be opportunity for an outdoor service from time to time in Murrumbateman.

There was also a sense that the Murrumbateman community needed to be proactive in reaching out to community members who are feeling isolated and lonely.

#### **Suggested actions arising from this agenda item:**

- Clear communication to the Murrumbateman Catholic Community from Father Mick and the Parish Pastoral Council that Mass will be resumed in Murrumbateman when conditions allow.
- In light of the isolation experienced by (mainly older or immune compromised) parishioners and the lack of "normal"- the resumption of some form of semi-regular Zoom liturgies and E-newsletters either for the whole of St Augustine's parish or for the Murrumbateman community which has expressed an interest in it. (Very, very conscious of the extra work this may entail, there are several parishioners volunteering to help).