

ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH YASS RENEWAL PROCESS WEEK 2: 14/3 & 15/3 2026

200+ RESPONSES – THANK YOU

Where might the Holy Spirit be calling us as a Parish Community? *Name 2 things which you think the Holy Spirit is calling us to enhance in our Parish...*

- Outreach to youth into the older people in our US community e.g. the nursing homes
- We are being called to invite people to events in into our homes
- I'd like our parish to grow in deeper understanding and confidence in the fullness of the Catholic faith we have received, so that our dialogue with other Christians is rooted in charity, but also in clarity about what the Church teaches.
- I hope the holy spirit is calling us to be less political and divisive and more welcoming and unifying.
- It is possible to share the 6pm vigil mass between Yass and M/Bateman? Say 6 months at each?
- I hope we as a parish can rediscover the clarity and unity of faith found in the Catholic Church and live it in a way that draws others toward that unity.
- Could the parish website homepage be brightened up and made more welcoming and less like a C.V? Also, a 'welcome' message from Fr Peter on the homepage would be a great addition.
- It's great that we have volunteers, but many of them have been doing the same roles for 20+ years. We need new, younger people to help out. Establish a volunteer register with the skill you can offer (it could be anything!) and time available. Do it online.
- Put a suggestion box at the back of the church. Publish the suggestions and parish response in the bulletin. If people see their ideas listened to, they will be more likely to volunteer to help with it and even take ownership of it. Suggestions can also be anonymous, of course.
- Consider starting a parish Facebook group (private, admin approves) to complement the parish website. Facebook groups are easier to administer and faster to add posts. I think our website is a useful resource though, especially for those interested in our history.
- I would like to see women in our parish have the opportunity to serve as acolytes. We typically have more girls than boys as altar servers, and they deserve to see a pathway to adult service.
- Many of the vital tasks for the operation of our parish fall in the same few people. I wonder how we can provide opportunities and motivation for a broader cross section of the community to be more active members of our parish...?
- Prayer in all its forms - recitation of Rosary, exposition, Christian meditation, Mass, music liturgy, contemplation, pilgrimage, etc
- To make the parish more financially secure
- Strengthening outreach in Vinnies
- Build a Catholic church and Catholic school at Murrumbateman over the next 50 years
- Continue to build the synodal way of reflecting and listening in our Parish
- To increase our interventions in the youth space. Murrumbateman Mass would be the perfect place to have a monthly youth mass. Upbeat music, youth involvement in readings etc. St Joseph's Church East Maitland in NSW do this so well. They have a thriving band, youth readers, get together, youth group reflection days and camps. These kids are being touched by God, they are the future of the church, and we need to help them find a home here.
- Also allowing the children that go to Murrumbateman mass weekly to do their sacrament preparation and completion there. They feel part of that community but currently aren't able to share this significant moment in their lives with the community that loves and supports them every week.
- More opportunities for parish sharing the load for exposition and praying with the blessed sacrament praying for peace.
- We need to find a way to make the parish financially viable into the future without relying on donations and planned-giving.
- Engage the youth! Introduce the youth! Since the closure of the Mt Carmel secondary School, I miss seeing the kids in yr 7 to 10 at mass, due to most now going to school in Goulburn and Canberra. Very sad.

- I would like info about what happens at PPC and finance meetings. Leave a minute sheet at the back of the church if you don't want to publish on social media, but we need better communication - the PPC know what's going on, not the parishioners.
- Start a "friendship" arrangement with another rural parish of a similar size - preferably one outside of our archdiocese). It would be fun to engage with another community and welcome those visiting from the other churches. If we are feeling really ambitious, we could even forge ties with an overseas community.
- Can we please ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to a more inclusive welcome to mass each Sunday? I don't want to go into detail, but due to something that happened to me when I was a kid, it is very hard for me to sit through the words of the AoC.
- To come together as a community, to pray together with Jesus Christ.
- Holy Spirit calls us to enhance our worship, joy – make the church/maths feel alive and celebratory. Choir invite kids to join – try to get more adults.
- Holy Spirit calls us to outreach our faith development in the community e.g. hosting events, women's nights, men's groups – not always formal could be a speaker and it said shared afternoon tea
- Build a parish centre.
- Encourage parishioners to attend a Cursillo
- Encourage/invite/welcome more families from the school community –
- More regular attendance at mass of young people.
- Continue to grow relationships within the Parish community, particularly for new members...morning tea chats are always good
- Opportunities for Bible study & discussions of faith
- Share our names with one another
- As a Parish community greet each other and get to know one another.
- Help each other to achieve their dreams.
- Having the young ones visit the elderly - they bring so much fun and Joy.
- Being more open and approachable to 'non-regulars'
- Continuing & enhancing Children's Liturgy
- Develop & demonstrate closer ecumenical ties through joint activities
- Community become more welcoming
- Show we are living the life of Faith
- A church at Murrumbateman would be a great presence in that town...or even just having the Blessed Sacrament in the little Chapel there.
- Keeping up the suppers/morning teas after Mass as important ways to build relationships founded on belief and faith in God.
- Get children to decorate the Church for holidays or start an art wall for Jesus or the best both.
- Be kind
- Do more Children's Liturgy
- Offer Reco (Reconciliation) at Mt Carmel
- The Lord is my light and my salvation-we need to enhance our parish.
- Connecting helpers & needs within parishioners-many don't have family support nearby...simple needs - shopping, shelf moved, company, dinner can be met by other members of parish, operate like a family should.
- Spread children's ministries - sacraments & liturgies allowed at Murrumbateman - Yass
- Stronger Youth interventions -> Youth Mass monthly with band like Michael Green & school kids or older kids, youth readers, upbeat music. These kids are the future of our Church & God is calling them (& their families) back to the Church -> let's make a place for them.
- The Lord shall be in our hearts. Tell people about our Parish so we can grow our Parish.
- Children come to mass so they can hear about our Lord.
- Smaller groups of parishioners who meet together to share a meal once a month – fellowship and encouragement – build a sense of community.
- A midweek evening gathering for adoration and singing perhaps with a reflection given by a faithful lay person
- A sense of unity.
- A sense of peace
- Support and guidance for Catholics impacted by the effects of divorce.

- Rosary learners group.
- More opportunities, like this for discourse and for the congregation to be engaged and heard
- Grow (Vinnies) maybe larger premises, room for furniture.
- Bring more families into active participation through school: – promote role of altar servers.
- School Choir, Junior Readers, Performances.
- Give children an active role, give families/parents a reason to prioritise.
- To find a practical way to help the elderly people in our parish
- To organise a regular adoration evening in the love at church – monthly
- God keeps us safe at home at school at the church.
- God keeps up safe with God. We are safe.
- That you can be in God's family.
- God keeps us safe in his family. God keeps us safe in his house. God keeps me safe near home, school and especially love what I want to give.
- God makes me feel safe if I'm sad he looks after me.
- God keeps us safe school and at HOME
- Hunger needs and good things can happen to you if you do good things for people
- Bridge the gap between everyone from all walks within our community.
- That you'll be in God's family.
- God keeps us safe in his house. God keeps us safe in his family.
- Outreach to those who may be feeling nervous about joining the church community.
- God keeps us safe – – – school hotel yes rodeo church life restaurant home outside country peoples house parks inside shops cafes pools.
- Community groups for increased knowledge of our faith. Lenten groups well read mum's group.
- Two things. The Holy Spirit is calling us to enhance our Parish in listening and understanding what he said. To be more about the holy Bible and how we can use what we have been taught in our daily life to spread the word and teach others.
- To reflect on the Mass from that day.
- Readers need to learn how to use the microphone as a large number do not hear what is said at mass
- Father Peter needs to visit parishioner's homes.
- The Hartigan Centre.
- A working bell to call us to mass and that the community know we are here
- Under 30 subcommittee of Pastoral Council
- Female acolytes
- Engagement of under 30-year-olds in music singing playing choosing hymns perhaps once a month Mass dedicated and led by under 30s
- More visible and active community outreach – soup kitchen etc
- Mass at 8 am on Sunday
- I think the Holy Spirit is calling us to enhance our prayer in our mindset in church.
- Regular useless where the music and liturgy have driven by the youth
- Female acolytes
- Children's rosary group & children's catechism group
- Weekly adoration (Holy Hour) where we can come to pray silently
- Could we have somewhere (Hartigan Centre?) where parishioners can drop in for a coffee/chat/rest during the day.
- Children's "the Mass explained" group
- Communion is for those who are in communion with the church by accepting church teaching, not for those who reject church teaching i.e. living in sin etc. Eliminate sacrilegious communions which are detrimental to the soul and not a good example for the youth.
- The death and funeral of any long-term parishioner be recognised at the Sunday Mass
- More time with Jesus
- Children's adoration
- Family Encourage people to get involved on Rosters eg. Reading, morning tea etc
- Take Holy Communion to the elderly & sick

- Involve children in the Mass ie. a class or those recently had a Sacrament...once a term - to read, collectors, welcome, choir etc.
- Checking in on: new mums, those travelling through grief, new parishioners, new families/students
- Talent Census: what do people have as strengths, skills? How can we help one another?
- Encouraging others to pray with/for one another/ over one another at Mass and gatherings
- Going to Nursing Homes/Aged Care for Eucharist/ time Process/recognise pattern of 'how to share' the Rosary in others (when others could come) - how to RSVP Prayer Chains –
- Sharing intentions/connections with others (committing to ring or visit/talk listen)
- Faith formation post sacraments for youth/young adults
- More inter/church dialogue/events
- Intentionally reaching out to the isolated/ sick/ lonely to give time, listen and hold space for them.
- Welcome the broader Yass community in through Open Days. This could be where parishioners stay behind talk to people, have a coffee or tea, in front of the church – this could encourage people to learn more about our faith.
- We should also proactively promote the RCIA instead of waiting for some few to ask for it.
- Try to help those in need and reach out to those that need friends.
- Maybe just talking to people just being friendly.
- We should have a procession and yes be focused on those less fortunate in the community – provide support as seen fit then widen the area of focus.
- Provide in person support/gardens at each person's home – gain understanding of need.
- More Parish groups – Catholic women's league, men's breakfast, for connections.
- I feel the Holy Spirit would want there to be less division between the two parts of our Parish – we should all combine sometimes for Mass and to get together.
- Reach out to children in public schools.
- Reach out to our aboriginal community.
- I think music is important at mass. I think people should be asked to join the Choir – at least more people, to make sure mass is even more prayerful.
- What is lacking in our vision is opportunities for spiritual formation so we may have the tools for mission and evangelisation at a Parish level.
- Into the future to take what we have identified in the past week as important
- To develop a healthy dialogue and relationships with our indigenous brothers and sisters.
- To have forgiveness and then reconcile with those who have made you feel uncomfortable
- To provide opportunities to grow deeper in the spiritual life – teaching, preaching, more adoration times
- To outreach to those who are not attending mass.
- Need outreach events.
- Events to invite and draw others too.
- Reach out to those people who feel marginalised in our community.
- Restore hope to those who may never have experienced the presence of God in their lives.
- To be a teacher of God and Jesus to share the holy and Sacraments of God
- Could Murrumbateman and Yass share the 6pm vigil Mass for half the year? Or, how about Yass and Gunning swapping mass times for six months?
- Could Yass get a Sunday low mass, say once every couple of months? A paired-down mass is wonderful for focusing the mind on why we are actually at mass.
- Better communication generally. Like, what is going on with the toilet block? It is an embarrassment the current state it's in.
- Could the church be opened up for a couple of hours each day during the week so we can pop in for some quiet time with our Lord?
- I would like to see some social events.
- I would love to see more youth (yrs 7 - 10) at mass. Encourage them by having a mass with lay speakers on youth issues.
- Does the parish have a register of parishioners who live alone - especially in a private home? If so, how can we reach out to, and support these people? Following on from this, is the parish office able to take the final instructions/funeral wishes from those with no family? Can we facilitate this?

- Could name tags be issued to the mass greeters/welcomers/hospitality people? This would be very helpful for visitors/new parishioners, as name tags act like a silent ice-breaker.
- Yass needs a parish community centre. Can we utilise part of the old boarding school/convent for this? Is the Hartigan Centre still available?
- To grow and deepen our individual personal relationship with God
- To take God's love out into our community more, in practical ways
- To share the word of God To care for others
- Build a Murrumbateman church
- We are called to participate in our archdiocese fully and without favour.
- Much more focus on outreach and mission.
- Commitment to building/confirming a permanent church in Murrumbateman.
- Build a stronger sense of one Parish between Yass and Murrumbateman... Not exactly sure how... Come Holy Spirit
- Preserve tradition – Get in touch with our roots as a traditional Catholic community - get involved in the Eucharistic Congress in 2028
- Outreach to young families and young mothers
- To be welcoming and inviting engagement for young people, children, teens and young adult adults
- More formation for people who are not of the faith, have lapsed or are not of faith for all Parish members, forming better Catholics.
- We are called to provide a sacred place to welcome all of our growing community.
- We are called to support our young families to raise their children in the Catholic faith.
- Encouraging the 25–45-year-old parishioners, our kids to come to mass at least once a month and bring their children
- Encounter with Christ by reaching out to people and inviting them into our parish community, particularly people on the margins
- To have a house in Murrumbateman that we can house the blessed Eucharist to allow people more opportunity to provide before the blessed Eucharist.
- Having the Blessed Eucharist in Murrumbateman will help us as we try to evangelise
- To opt out and take active steps to evangelise, being creative and reaching out.
- Daily adoration/sacrament availability.
- Encounter with Christ by reaching out to people and inviting them into our parish community, particularly people on the margins
- Everyday conversations to our heart - calling to be a light and place of truth in the community.
- A Parish where people are drawn to the Catholic faith – want to join the Parish so that it grows and attracts new people, young families
- Embrace opportunities for faith formation, getting back to Catholic tradition and providing Sacramental opportunities for developing area of Murrumbateman.
- Reaching out to the unpractised Catholic – getting them back.
- Improve spiritual atmosphere in the Parish
- To get the younger generation back and involved in the church/mass
- To do more for the disadvantaged outside of our well off area.
- Serve the young parents in our parish (children's liturgy, mothers groups).
- They have a permanent church in Murrumbateman.
- That everyone new feels very welcome.
- Opportunities to help those in need for example sandwiches for the homeless, clothes drives etc. Chances to help people in need.
- A permanent church building
- Outreach to parents of young children (run a playgroup).
- Helping others.
- Donate to (Vinnies)
- Opportunities to enhance encourage youngsters whether it be behind the scenes or as part of services e.g. jobs artworks involvement in liturgy talents etc.

- Published one page on Parish governance charter -> how decisions are made -> who is responsible for what -> how finances are reported -> how parishioners can raise issues.
- More money spent on outreach activities.
- A greater focus on Bible stories.
- Care of the elderly and disabled maybe with transport or visiting.
- Encourage new members
- Help in their local community.
- Donate to the poor
- Sense of belonging.
- Christian community where everyone is welcome.
- Every three or six months have a Mass to help the alienated – shorter homily – description of the rituals – hospitality afterwards – personal invitation to parishioners who have drifted
- Actively greet new parishioners with a warm welcome at mass.
- Follow-up contact within seven days. Low pressure social event within 30 days
- Children's liturgy
- To be seen in our parish
- To see our Parish
- Make St Augustine's a welcoming place for the whole community – ok?
- Dear All – if the Aboriginal community/Koori/Indig/don't come to St Augustine's then go to the community i.e. all in the area
- Consider holding Latin Mass from time to time – the Church's enduring connection to the past is one of its greatest strengths
- Volunteers are needed - To see younger people join in that ministry
- To see more younger people come to Mass and to realise what it's about