

Youth Ministry (Program) Communication and Action Plan proposal

Background:

- The recent church survey listed “Youth Ministry” as one of the top priorities for the parish moving forward.
- In the lack of funding approval for the organ, concerns about Youth Ministry were cited as a reason for not supporting the organ fund at this time.
- The demographic of the parish are aging and there is a concern that younger people are not joining to fill the gap.
- There is a lack of understanding about what the focus of “Youth Ministry” should be.
- Father Keith intends visiting other churches with successful “Youth” programs to gather some thoughts on what St John’s might do.
- There is a suggestion that there is a division within the parish and that parishioners might not believe that the parish council has the same priorities that they do.

Assumptions:

- That there is an intention to focus (in some way) on Youth Ministry
- The time is needed to determine what form this focus will take, what the actions will be and what the measures will be
- There is a desire to demonstrate to the parish that the council understands that this is a priority and is doing something about it.

Proposed Approach

- Establish a pattern of messages and opportunities for interaction from the parish on the topic of Youth Ministry. In doing this, Youth program stays on the agenda and the parish hopefully sees that it is an area of focus. By setting expectations of the time line, then this should mitigate frustrations around a lack of focus.
- Give Father Keith time to evaluate what else is around
- Taken time as a council to determine what action will be taken.

The Plan

Timing	Mode	Rationale / Content
June	Father Keith's quarterly newsletter	Father Keith will raise the topic of Youth Ministry in his quarterly letter in the context of the survey results. He will outline that it's a priority, but not a quick fix and that the first step is that he will be evaluating other churches during his Long Service leave
June	Pew Sheet – each week	Put a note in the pew sheet reminding everyone that Fthr Keith is going to visit other church's with healthy youth ministry. Give people the opportunity to suggest places that might be good for him to visit.
July – October	Pew Sheet / Service updates	Whilst on leave, put 'updates' from Father Keith on how he is enjoying his LSL, including some notes on the youth programs he has seen.
October	LSL Report / Pew Sheet	Father Keith puts an addendum in the Pew Sheet with an update on what he learned during his travels about youth programs.
November	Parish Survey	Survey goes out about Youth Ministry programs and what people are prepared to change, what success looks like. Etc. Request for parish members to joining a committee to focus on the development of a youth program.
December	Results of parish survey	Outline of the results of the survey.
December – February	Youth Program Committee provides regular updates on their progress.	Youth committee meets during this time to set objectives, action plan and measures.
March	Council communicates the action plan	Plan is announced and action starts.