

New Portsmouth Catholic Parish

We need your feedback
The Catholic churches on Portsea Island are merging into a single parish

Alternatively please ask for a physical feedback form from your Parish Office

Scan the QR code to go to the feedback form

Pastoral Area Plan

Survey Results
October 2024

Age profiles of those who responded

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Under 18 0

18-25 0

26-35 0

36-45 2

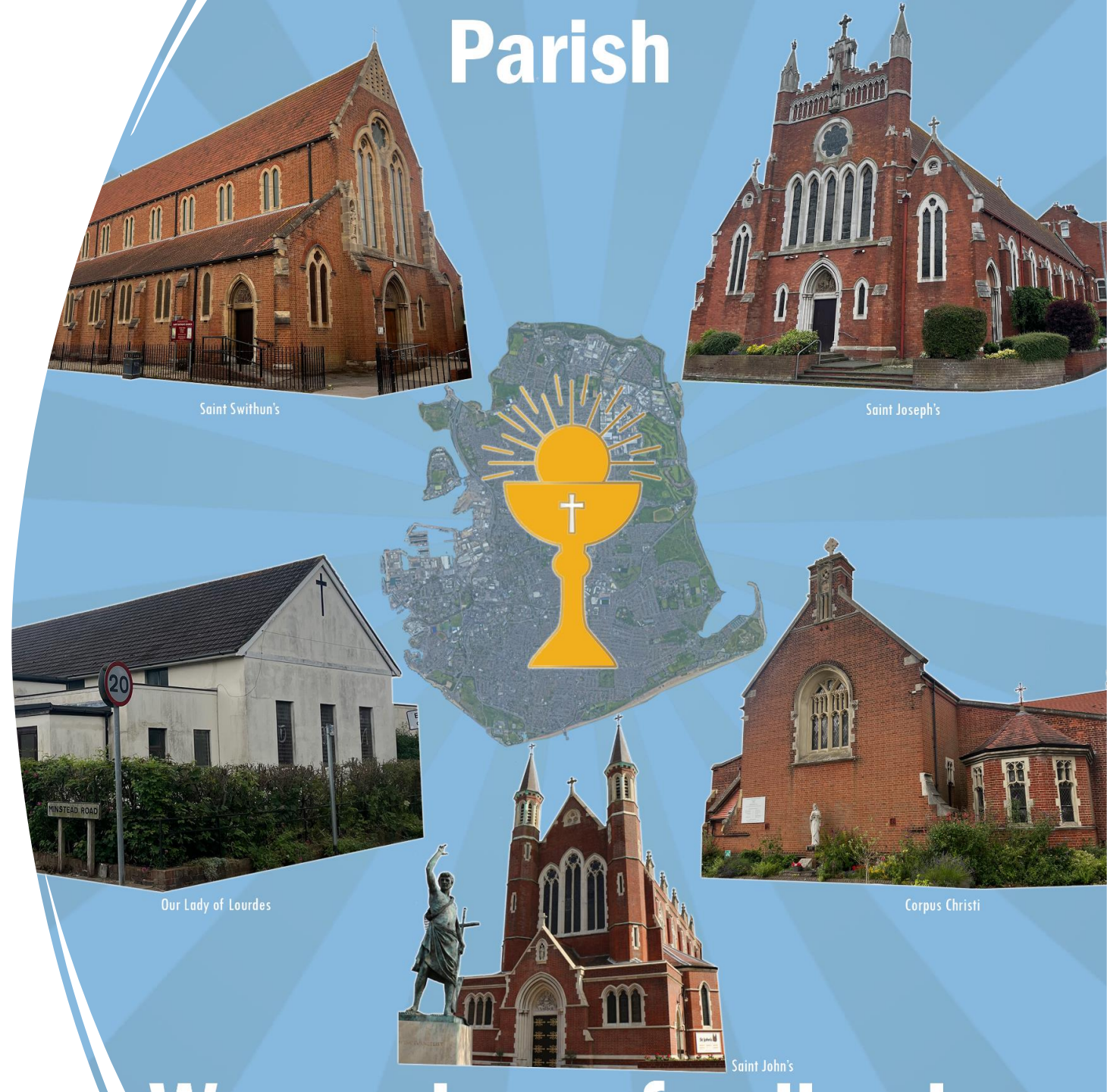
46-59 1

60-70 3

71 and older 9

Ethnic profile of those who responded

Asian	1
Indian	1
White British or Irish	13



Church attended

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St. John's Cathedral	8
Corpus Christi	2
St. Joseph's	1
Our Lady of Lourdes	0
St. Swithun's	4

Apart from what has already been listed, what else could we do to ensure that our liturgies are uplifting and devotional?

- Have at least 3 welcomers at each Mass.
- Homilies should focus on being accessible, relating scripture to everyday life rather than ethics.
- Priests can dampen the enthusiasm of parishioners especially if they don't consult on or explain changes.
- Explanation is needed on our movement and gestures during Mass.
- Encourage more children's choirs and child cantors like at the cathedral.
- Train and rehearse people in the music for the Mass.
- Monthly Mass arranged by the University students.
- Notices to tell people to turn their mobile phones off.
- Build in time for silence.
- Children and young people's adoration.
- A room with a screen for parents with young children to follow Mass.

Apart from what has already been listed, what other formation in faith and leadership do you think is needed by clergy and lay people?

- Instruction on the catechism.
- Priest should be more interactive with their communities and not leave it to the few who seemed to run everything.
- Group Lectio Divina. House Groups for friendship and support, prayer, discussion of special topics. Occasionally lectures with discussions with key speaker[s] on special topics e.g Synodality, Catholic Ethics, AI, A Missionary Church etc.
- Restore the Guild of St John - a team of a dozen adults ready at the service of the Dean for parish purposes.
- Utilise the Spirituality for Formation Team to run online retreats and talks on topics like how to pray.
- Remind during marriage prep that their relationship mirrors God's with them.
- Infertility is a great source of pain. Help couples to see their gifts can be utilised in other ways.

Apart from what has been listed, what other locally led evangelisation should we be engaged in?

- Bible studies if possible.
- Link CathSoc to parish prayer groups.
- Inviting people into adoration in the evening Having interesting lectures which local people might be interested in i.e. outside speakers who will attract interest. On going faith formation which all are welcome to.
- Information about relationships with other Christians and other faiths. Joint ventures particularly meeting the city's needs and co-witnessing to Christ and the Gospel. Joint prayer, discussion and exchange on different interpretations of doctrines etc.
- Make buildings available for community use.

Apart from what has already been listed, how can we inspire our young people to be welcome and nurtured in our parish?

- I would love to see the youth run the choir, cantor, readings, stewarding, welcoming etc.. on at least one Sunday of the month.
- Include them in the music ministry often, not only once a month.
- Can the students within CathSoc engage with our younger (teenage) congregation and share some social/prayer time activities?
- Young people in general are not inspired by church or religion. Our world is too materialistic and secular. It would seem that prayer and penance by those of us who still have and practice the faith is our hope for conversion of the masses.
- Make a more comfortable space where they could be together in the church buildings, every space feels very officey/institutional which is hard to relax in.
- More socials - meals shared with the priests and different church groups
- Timings of masses to ensure a Sunday evening mass across the parishes . This is a good time for young people and students.
- Make attendance at church seem more relevant and desirable.

Apart from what has already been listed, what else could we be doing as a parish to be of service and a witness in our local community?

- The SVP group initiatives seem like the answer. With the right level of support and drive I envisage that this would be the catalyst to address this area.
- Younger people need to be involved.
- Too much of what we do, seems to depend on the parish priest's approval.
- Changes of nationalities affects continuity of service and witness.
- Celebrating a parish feast day. Close the car park for one day and have stalls to sell unwanted gifts, food stalls, face painting etc.
- Providing warm safe space particularly this winter
- Ask PCC what and where are the most urgent needs. There is clearly a need for housing the homeless [parish groups could engage with Hope-into-Action to create and support lodgings for the homeless]. Similarly, undertake another project under the Home Office refugee sponsorship scheme.
- Share buildings.
- Larger newsletters with more information encouraging people to form groups to address issues.

With ageing buildings and reduced income, apart from what has been listed, how can we make best use of our resources (buildings, people and money)?

- Encourage churchgoers to park in the cathedral car park when they are visiting Commercial Road. Give the money to the church rather than the NCP.
- St Swithun's has car park and outbuildings - could these be put to commercial use?
- Perhaps the financial viability of buildings, presbyteries and churches need to be calculated and presented to the faithful followed by further consultation on the issue. In my view, keeping buildings that can't be maintained won't grow the faith and church attendance.
- Look into the future sale of one or more of the churches in the PA. Don't delay the process.
- Having a play area, even if simple would be such a gift to parents and children and would enable the children to associate church overall with fun and would enable them to let off steam after a long Mass.
- It would be really great to have a space which is more comfortable which would feel less 'officey' or 'schooley' where get-togethers could be held. Neither of these need cost very much if requests were put out to the community or second hand items purchased.
- We need to find out why there is so little communication between the ethnically different Mass community [e.g., InSight volunteers are all European, in Lectio Divina Group there is only one African person]. By contrast, the liturgy is served [readers, eucharistic ministers, servers and priests] by people from each continent
- It is my view that there would be plenty of money available for specific projects, but people are not happy to contribute generally. Nonetheless for routine expenditure we might consider a subscription system.

How would you like to be involved in shaping the parish of Portsmouth to be an active, vibrant, faith filled Catholic community?

- Individuals are happy to carry on being involved in the ministries and activities they currently do.
- Individuals didn't see themselves as future leaders.
- The Catholic community in Portsmouth is difficult to break into.
- People lack confidence to lead. Mentors and coaching are needed and an awareness that 'jobs' we do are a ministry.
- Individuals volunteered to assist.