

## Beliefs and Practices of Australian Catholics — what we know and why it matters

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE  
MELBOURNE  
19-22 FEBRUARY 2014



## BUILDING STRONGER PARISHES SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS

The Building Stronger Parishes project explored how Catholic parishes, in various contexts, used their strengths and available resources to respond to a variety of challenges. The aim of the research was to identify and analyse some of these initiatives in parishes throughout Australia, which could then be implemented in other parishes facing similar challenges. Particular emphasis was given to stories of vitality and hope that brought life to their communities and had an underlying foundation in an ecclesiology of communion.



'Mum's Cottage' - a unique outreach program for young mothers in Sugarloaf Parish, Maitland-Newcastle

### Some Special Ideas on Spiritual Nourishment and Faith Formation

- A. Working with Religious Communities
- B. Spirituality through the web
- C. Parish Faith Development Team
- D. Special activities for special groups of people



### DID YOU KNOW?

A Parish Youth Group is **CRITICAL** to helping young people strengthen their faith and build community

The integrated community at Aldinga church in Willunga Parish (Adelaide) is a unique model that safeguards the identity of a small community while incorporating it into a large parish.

### Some Special Ideas on Building and Maintaining Community in a Parish

- A. Parish Dinners with the parish priest
- B. Playgroups
- C. Parish Newsletters
- D. Parish Festivals



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Q1: What does my parish struggle with? What can I learn from the BSP parishes?
- Q2: What are some practical ideas that my parish may find useful?
- Q3: What are the areas that are missed out? What do I need more information about?

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## BUILDING STRONGER PARISHES SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS

Here are some examples of practical ideas you may find useful for your parish. Feel free to contact the parishes listed here to ask for help and support.



## Does your parish have these?

- A Parish Business Directory (*Kings Park, Melbourne*)
- A Bereavement Group (*Montmorency, Melbourne*)
- A 'Fish and Chips' Group (*Shepparton, Sandhurst*)
- A Conversation Group (*Warnervale, Broken Bay*)
- A Disability Support Group (*Harris Park, Sydney, Maronite Diocese*)
- A Playgroup (*Myall Coast, Maitland-Newcastle*)

## Need help with engaging young people? These parishes can help you...

- Launceston, Hobart
- Kings Park, Melbourne
- Albany Creek, Brisbane
- Narrabundah, Canberra
- Shepparton, Sandhurst
- Harris Park, Sydney, Maronite Diocese



## Is your parish facing twinning or amalgamation? Find out how these parishes have come out stronger through the process...

- Cororooke, Ballarat
- Willunga, Adelaide
- Myall Coast, Maitland-Newcastle

