

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

with Archbishop Peter Comensoli

We were very honoured to have a great zoom discussion with the Archbishop this evening.

The Archbishop brought up the concept of 'young church' - what might a 'new church' or 'young church' look like? He spoke of the new mission and the opportunity the new mission might bring.

He spoke firstly of the history of the first Melbourne mission near St Francis' and their role in reaching out to the people of the then newly settled city of Melbourne. Of those Christians dealing with a new landscape for them and new people to the town.

He then spoke of mission being a mechanism for parishioners to reach into their local 'country', our local areas. and thinking about how we as Christians can support people in need in new ways in our local areas. He spoke of each part of Melbourne being its own individual country, all a part of the church but with differing nuances and ways and what might be the specific ways that church can work in those areas; to think about what has worked well in the past- what is flourishing, what is it that we have that is good about the church? And what changes might need to occur, what might need to be pruned to allow new growth. He asked us to think about how we manage change, a normal part of life, to keep transforming and renewing, a principal element of the church teaching. A new learning was the meaning of the word parish – the sojourn - meant to signify a place of reflection and rest during movement, transformation, growth, that the sojourn and new church is part of transformation and of being with us on this new path and journey

After discussions in our breakout groups discussing these new concepts and thinking, we then resumed back into the main group for a Q&A session.

The Archbishop was very generous in answering our questions such as what my the new visual roadmap for the mission look like, how to move from just problem-solving the new merger and changes to thinking about new mission and church, what may need to change and what is working well and what our own individual place and journey in what this new mission will be. As our new mission takes shape and form and we reconsolidate after COVID, he asked us to begin our thinking on how we as individuals might go forth into our communities and what strengths each of us might have and can bring in undertaking this new and what might be sometimes an uncomfortable and unknown path.

We'd like to thank the Archbishop for his time and energy spent with our group and his presentation and thoughts about a new future and mission † □

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