

ANALYSIS OF ST MARGARET’S AND HOLY NAME ANNUAL REVIEW PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

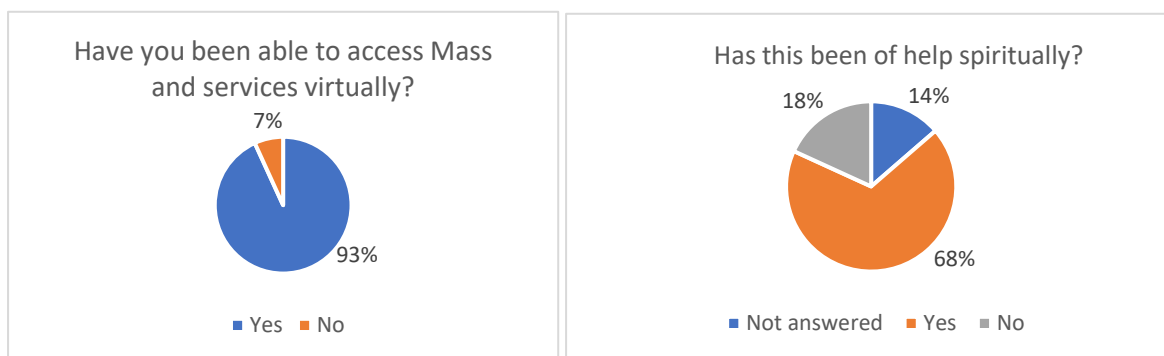
1 Introduction

1.1 The parishioners of St Margaret’s and Holy Name Churches were invited to complete a questionnaire to support the Parish Priest and Parish Council with forward planning for the post Covid-19 pandemic period. 44 questionnaires were returned by the closing date of 16 December 2020. The following report provides a summary of the responses under the 3 main headings of Worship and Spirituality, Community and Communication and the Parish Post Covid-19.

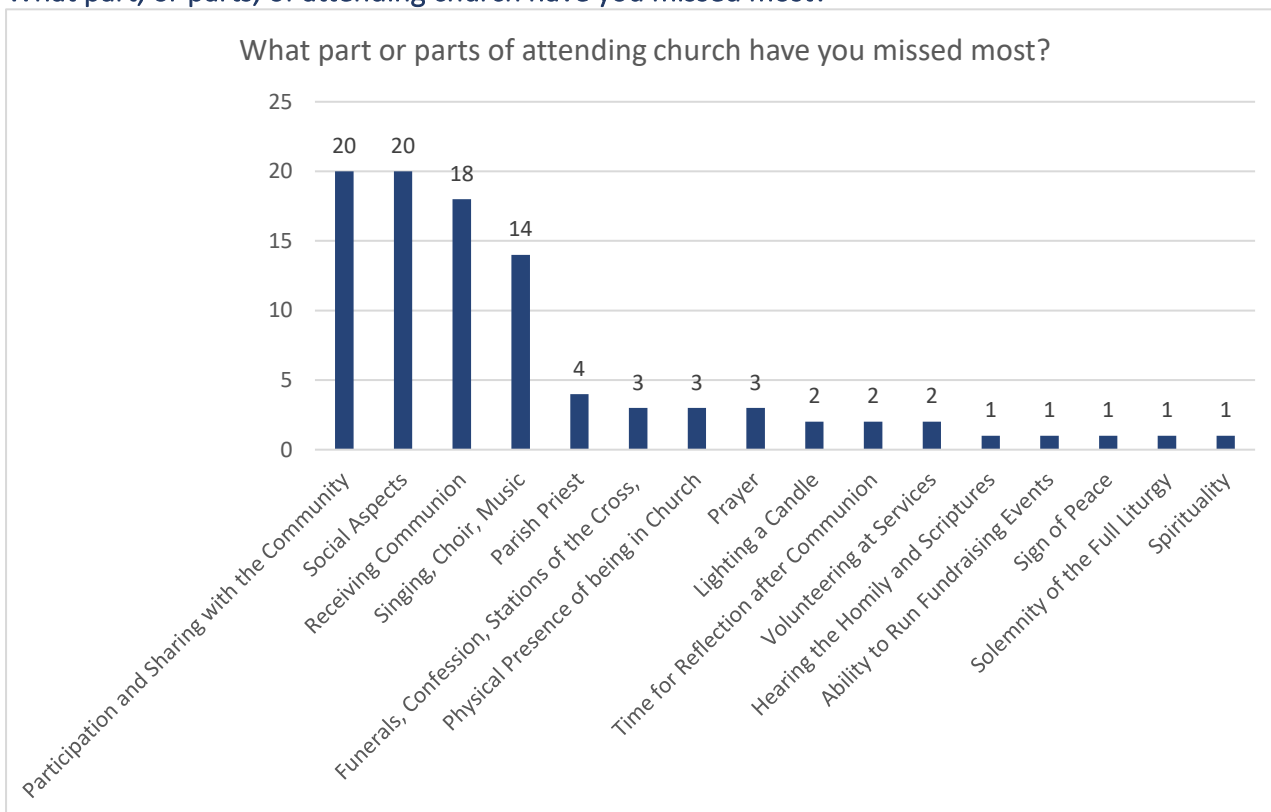
2 Worship and Spirituality

2.1 Have you been able to access Mass and services virtually? Has this been of help spiritually?

93% (n=41) of respondents reported that they had been able to access Mass and services virtually, those who had not advised this was because they had no access to the internet. 68% (n=30) had found this to be of help spiritually and emotionally with sermons providing guidance through difficult times and the momentum of the liturgy throughout the Church year providing some normality. It was noted that the issues with connectivity and disruptions to broadcasts was distracting and that it was not the same as being physically with the church community.

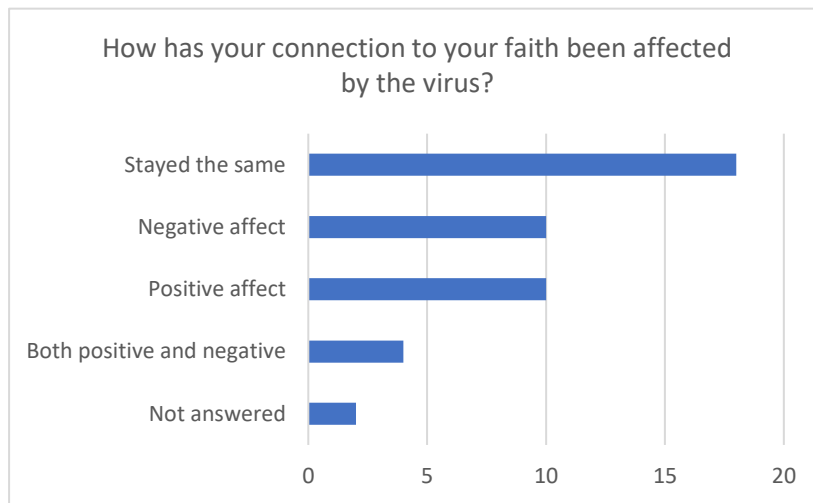


2.2 What part, or parts, of attending church have you missed most?

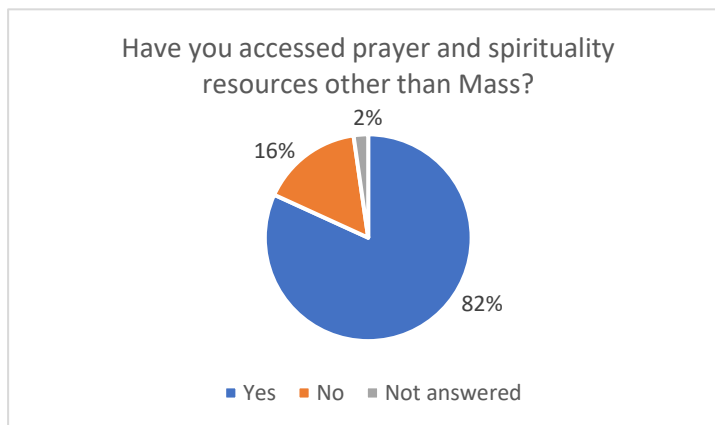


2.3 How has your connection to your faith been affected by the virus?

41% (n=18) felt the connection to their faith had stayed the same; 23% (n=10) reported that the virus had had a positive impact on their faith and 23% said it had had a negative impact; 9% (n=4) considered it had had both a positive and negative impact.

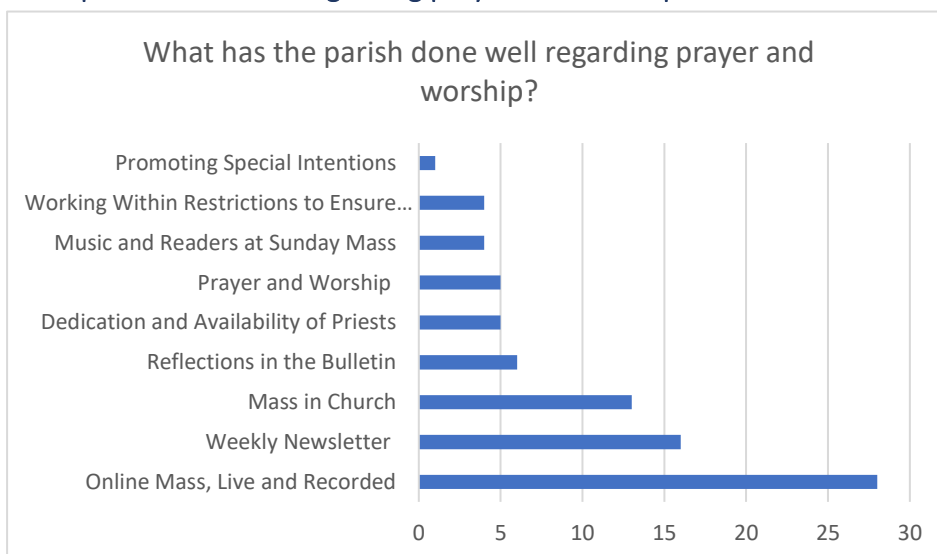


2.4 Have you accessed prayer and spirituality resources other than Mass?



Respondents gave examples of additional personal prayer, reflections, reading, making use of the links contained within the weekly newsletter, participating in the Rosary, accessing prayer groups and virtual meetings within the Parish.

2.5 What has the parish done well regarding prayer and worship?



Overall respondents considered the Parish had done well and were very appreciative of the efforts made by the Priests and others to support the parishioners, keep people well informed and in access to mass and services.

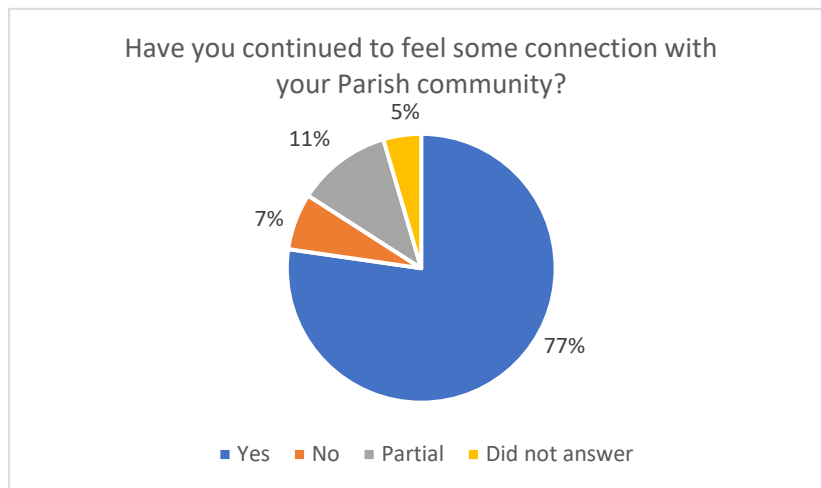
2.6 What could be improved regarding prayer and worship?

Respondents were largely positive regarding all that has been done to support prayer and worship with particular commendations for the dedication of the Parish Priest and the technical team. There were some concerns that those without access to internet are not be able to participate or know what is going on. Some respondents have made some suggestions for improvement which are summarised below:

- ✚ Benediction or Novena
- ✚ Children's online mass
- ✚ Exposition during confession
- ✚ Litany of Our Lady on a Saturday morning
- ✚ Online Rosary
- ✚ Parish retreat when restrictions allow
- ✚ Penitential service
- ✚ Promotion of more prayer and reflection in bulletin
- ✚ Singing
- ✚ Time for reflection after communion
- ✚ Weekly prayer group via zoom
- ✚ Promotion of wider access to the weekly newsletter

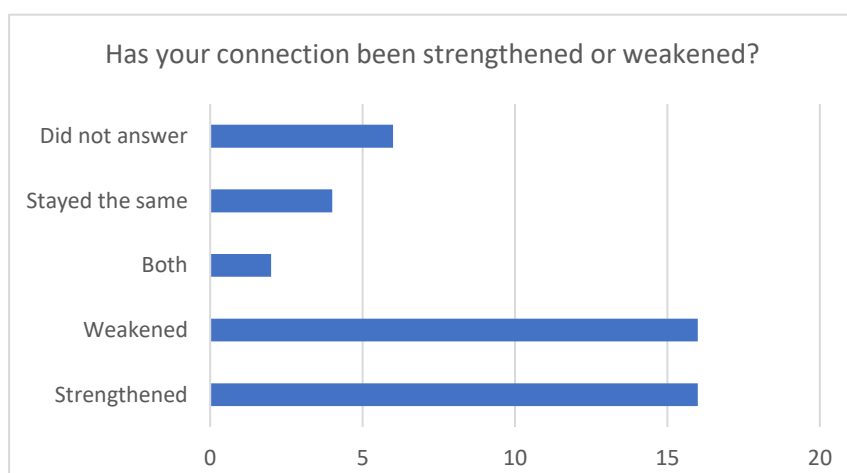
3 Community and Communication.

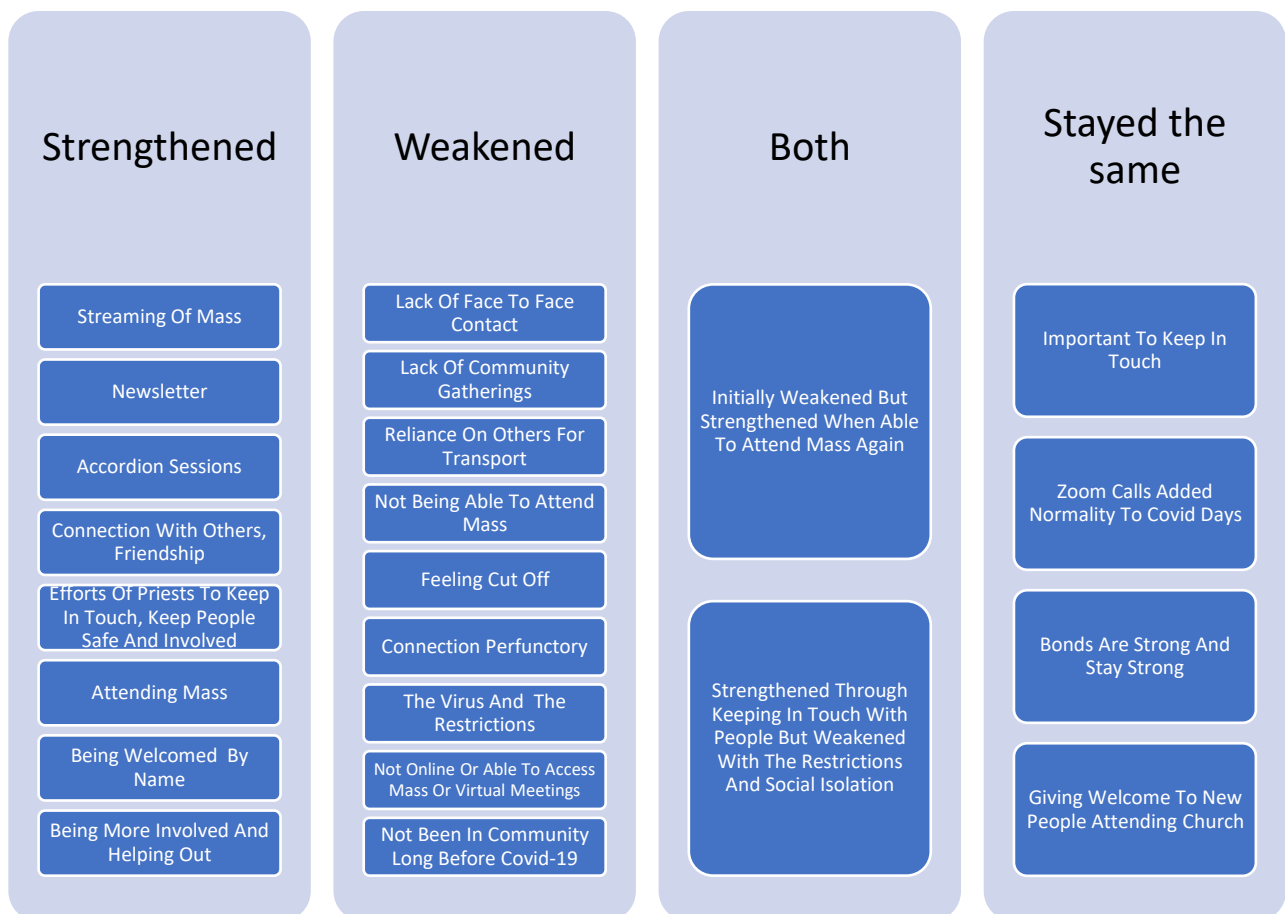
3.1 Have you continued to feel some connection with your parish community?



77% (n=34) of respondents considered they still had some connection to the parish community with positive examples of the expanded newsletter, recording of readers and music for Sunday Mass, volunteering at Mass to support safety, virtual meetings of Parish organisations, SVDP visits and Father Chris's accordion sessions all helping to support connectivity. Some respondents noted they relied on other people to print and bring them the newsletter and without this would not know what was happening. Lack of face-to-face contact and coping with restrictions was noted as being difficult for many parishioners.

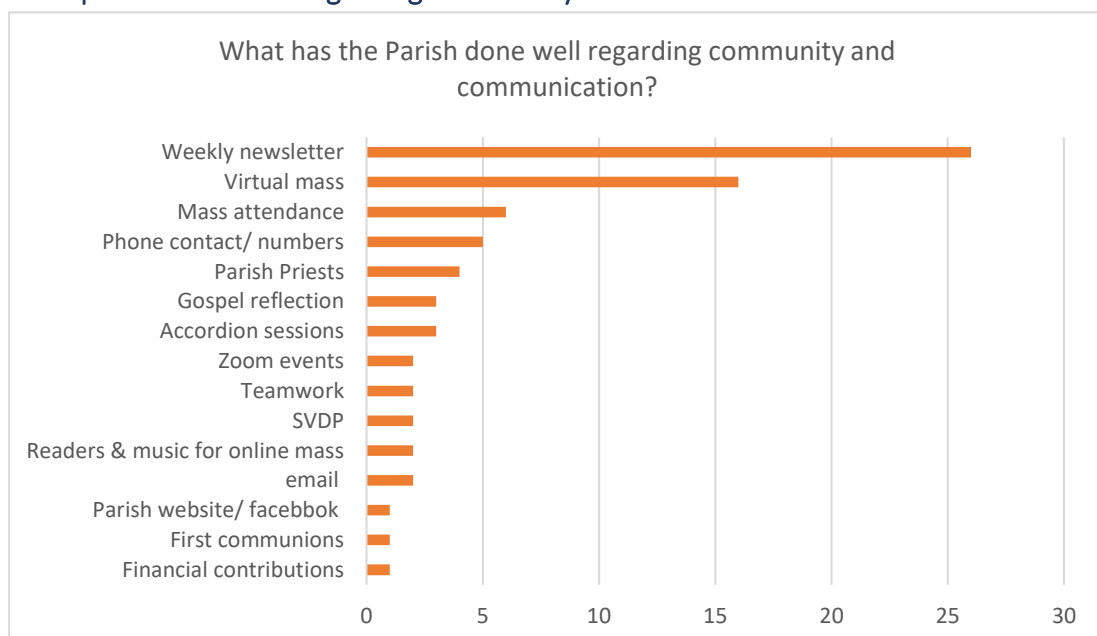
3.2 Has your connection been strengthened or weakened? Can you give reason your answer?





3.3 **Has the weekly newsletter and other communications been of help? Why?**
 95% (n=42) of respondents considered the newsletter has been beneficial (2 did not answer this question). The informative content, spiritual guidance, reflections, prayers and news content have been well received and kept the parish informed and up to date. It was noted that there is reliance on some to print out and distribute to those without email or internet access.

3.4 **What has the parish done well regarding community and communication?**



The Parish has come together as a team to make the online experience meaningful and informative. The efforts of the Parish Priests and parishioners who have given of their time has been greatly appreciated.

3.5 **What could be improved regarding community and communication?**

In general respondents felt the parish has done a good job during this difficult time and has adapted to the changing situation and necessary restrictions as best as it can. It was noted that the uncertainty of restrictions in place from month to month make it difficult to plan and that starting something that has to be halted can be damaging to both mental and spiritual well-being.

Respondents made the following suggestions:

- ✚ Develop a more comprehensive Parish email list in accordance with GDPR guidance
- ✚ Consider development of mobile phone number database to enable text messaging
- ✚ Survey parishioners favourite spiritual books, prayers, saints, poems, hymns, memories to be used from time to time as inspirations, sermon topics and encouragement
- ✚ Share the outcome of Parish Council meetings
- ✚ Identify volunteers willing to phone elderly and housebound to prevent further isolation
- ✚ Consider how the newsletter can be distributed to those without access to the internet
- ✚ Extend and develop what is now in place as a result of adapting to the pandemic

4 The Parish Post Covid-19.

4.1 Have you returned to Mass in the Church? If yes, how have you found the experience? If not, would you like to comment why?

89% (n=39) of respondents had returned to Mass in the Church. Those who had not, cited their vulnerability to the virus and restrictions as a reason.

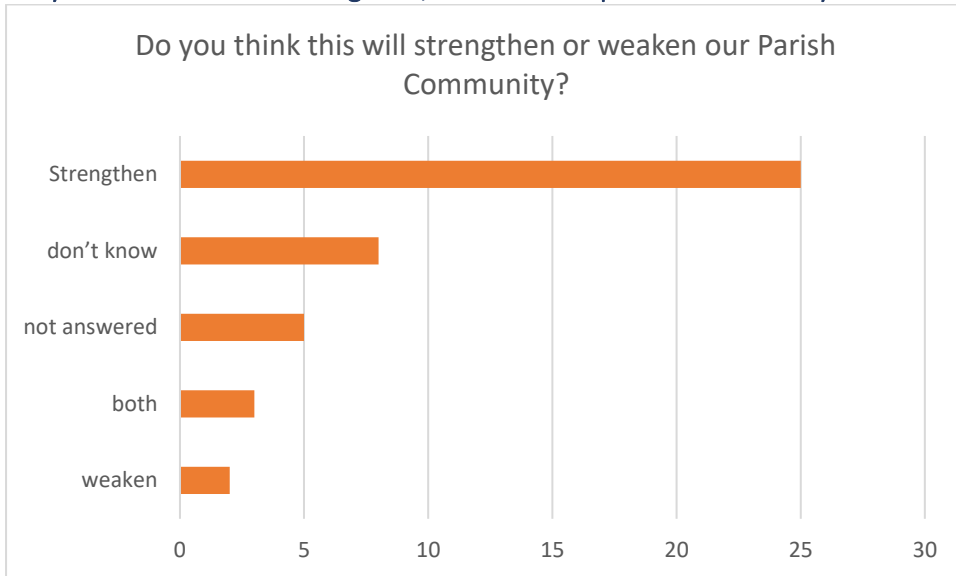
The experience has been mixed. The ability to physically attend mass and receive holy communion has been welcomed and supported people's faith and spiritual well-being however the shortened service, lack of singing and time for reflection and thanksgiving after communion has impaired the overall experience for some. The organisation of the services and precautions taken to keep people safe have been welcomed.

4.2 What changes should we make when the pandemic is over? (in any area)

A number of suggestions have been made and are summarised below:

Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Continue with online streaming of Sunday Mass ✚ Return to <i>normal</i> Sunday Mass when allowed ✚ 4pm Vigil at Holy Name ✚ Music and singing reintroduced. ✚ Time for reflection after communion ✚ Lighting of candles ✚ Instead of Sunday obligation can it be once a week?
Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Continue with newsletter and distribute by email with paper copies available. Format will need to be considered
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Promote offerings to be paid by standing orders/ card reader
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Re-establish social and community activities ✚ Social Committee rather than Men's Group? ✚ Tea and coffee after mass
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Get more people involved ✚ Assign personal duties ✚ Re-establish Eucharistic and other Ministries
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Benediction ✚ Parish retreat ✚ Lectures ✚ Meditations ✚ Stations of the Cross
Stay safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Continue use of hand sanitisers ✚ Consider printing hymns in newsletter rather than use of communal hymn books ✚ Discontinue shaking of hands at sign of peace ✚ Discontinue communal drinking from the same chalice ✚ More masses with fewer people attending ✚ Welcome people on arrival

4.3 Do you think this will strengthen/ weaken our parish community?



As demonstrated in the chart above the majority of respondents felt that this will strengthen our parish.