



Igniting Welcome & Hospitality

1. Make all feel known, welcomed and loved

- Priority One – intentional welcome and generous hospitality
- Speak to someone you haven't met or don't know well.
- Dinners for eight: small group dinners, hosted in willing homes or central location
- Once or twice a year celebrate a whole Parish meal
- Start a name tag board and launch 'wear your name tag Sunday'.

2. Focus on making newcomers feel welcome

- 'Secret shopper': invite someone from outside parish to attend and share their experience with parish leadership.
- Avoid using 'insider' language.
- Leave back pews empty for visitors and seekers. A great way to 'notice' and approach.
- Introduce yourself to someone after Mass and connect them with parish members.
- Welcome / Help Desk – prominent in church foyer to welcome and give information.
- Provide Mass responses to make participation easier.

3. Get everyone on board as "hosts".

- Engaging homilies – appeal for collective buy-in to the vision of welcome and hospitality
- Extending warmth, welcome and invitation are everyone's privilege
- Welcome group/committee – coordinating invitation & hospitality opportunities in our community
- Would you invite someone you know to join us for Mass?

This tool offers a range of strategies and ideas to help animate a culture of hospitality and invitation in your parish, a key element of a vibrant parish community.

4. Make your physical environment welcoming

- What do visitors/seekers see and feel when they enter our parish/ church/ hall/ office?

Consider:

- Is the signage clear and fresh?
- Does the office doorbell work?
- How is disability access?
- Does the sound system work?
- Clean toilets and nappy change facilities?

At Sunday Mass:

- Are there simple prompts for Mass responses?
- Lights on, building warm, music playing, candles lit etc.

5. Create soft entry points for seekers

These events aim to meet people where they are, build connection and community, and provide a platform for further invitation to parish offerings.

- Craft beer tasting / Wine and cheese night
- Fundraiser / parenting course
- Cultural expo (eg: Art Show)
- 'Come & See' launch of Alpha, the Search, or another evangelisation tool.

6. Consider opportunities to engage online:

- What does your website say about your community?
- Does it invite people to explore further?
- Newcomer / Welcome page
- Keep it up to date
- Where is your parish community already online? Facebook, Instagram, Youtube – where else?