A vision for the future of St Bridget’s Catholic Parish, Greythorn

Inspired by the love of God and

empowered by the Holy Spirit we,

St Bridget’s Catholic Parish, strive to

live the gospel revealed to us in Jesus.

*- Mission statement from Parish Annual General meeting Nov 2014*

As St Bridget’s enters into a new parish arrangement, sharing a Parish Priest (Fr Mark Reynolds) with the parishes of Surrey Hills and Wattle Park, and with the good fortune of also having a resident priest (Fr Kevin Lenehan), it seems the right time to consider what kind of a future we would want to build for this parish. What kind of parish do we want to be? How do we want to engage with our neighbouring parishes? Do we know the needs within our parish and how best to respond to those needs?

Faith

Faith Development

Service/ Outreach

Worship/ Liturgy

Community Life

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to engage with parishioners to develop a vision for the future of St Bridget’s Parish. We want practical, actionable ideas. We invite parishioners to stay a while after each Mass on the weekend of 18 & 19 November, to share some food and discuss the future of St Bridget’s Catholic Parish Greythorn.

To assist with organising people’s ideas and prompt discussion we will use this conceptual framework.

The diagram illustrates the centrality of Faith as the driver of activity in the parish. We have examples of ministries and activities in each of the four areas of faith expression:

* Faith Development
	+ Catechism for students in public schools
	+ Scripture Reflection group
	+ Meditation group
* Service/ Outreach
	+ St Vincent De Paul
	+ Refugee Action Group
	+ Project Compassion, Caritas, “leaving collections”
* Worship/ Liturgy
	+ The Sacraments
	+ Lay ministries
* Community Life
	+ Tea and coffee after Mass
	+ Dinners
	+ Working Bees

In his 2010 report to the St Bridget’s AGM, then Monsignor Terry Curtin wrote, “The liturgical and prayer life of the parish lies at the heart of what we do and are.” Is this statement as true today as it was in 2010? What are the ways in which we make this real? Are there things we were doing as a parish in 2010, or earlier, that we have ceased to do and should re-establish? What are today’s priorities for a Catholic community? We have seen how our parish can respond to the Pope’s call to catholics across the world to open their hearts to the plight of refugees. Do we take this further with our partnering parishes? Do we engage with the challenges expressed by Pope Francis in Laudato Si? What are your thoughts and concerns? We’d like to discuss any or all of these with you.

Join us after Mass on 18 or 19 November.