

A PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE FOR HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, NORTH RINGWOOD



CATHOLIC SURVEY

**Are you one of the 6,394 CATHOLICS who live
in the North Ringwood area?**

***Holy Spirit Parish is planning for future
directions and would value YOUR opinion.***



The aim of Spirit Search

- The 'Spirit Search 2010' Survey was launched on the 17th February 2010 and closed 12th April 2010
- Surveys were collected via the internet and self completion
- 548 surveys were completed
- 253 via the internet
- 295 hard copy / self completion

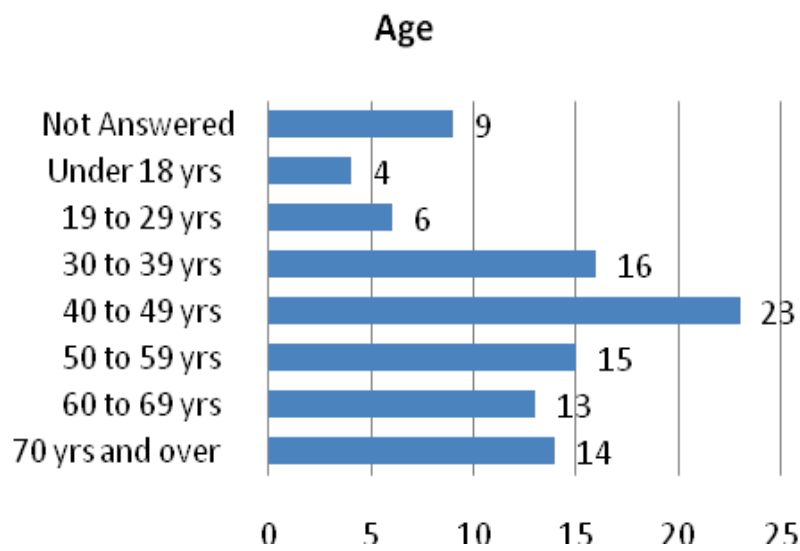
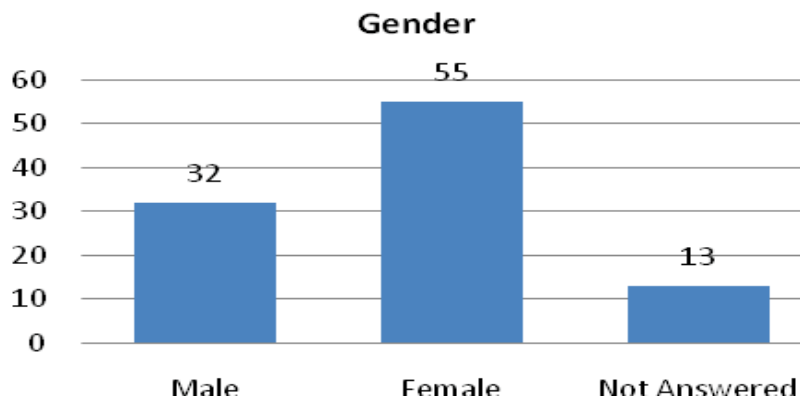
Points to note:

- In market research terms over 500 is a valid survey. (a change to the results would be less than 5% if we were to survey another 500 people)

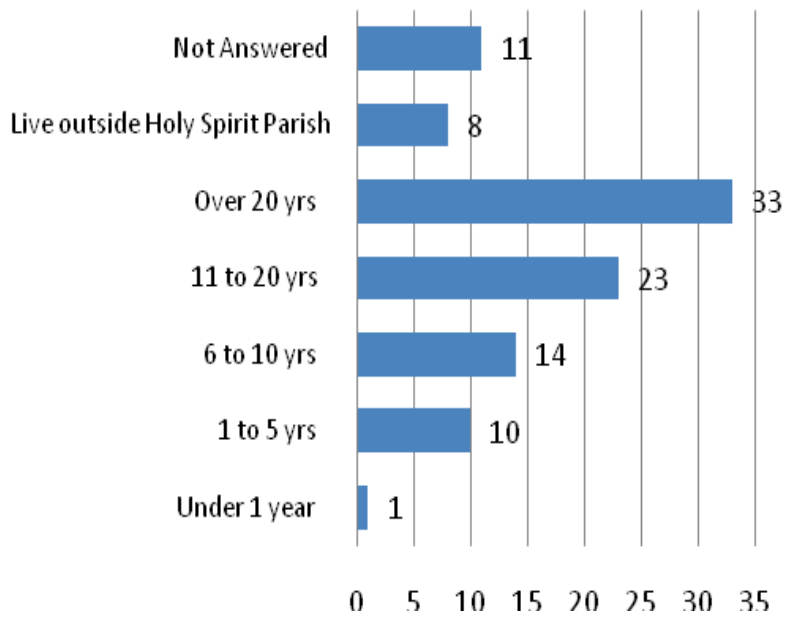
The results and outcomes of the data received are collated below. We are extremely grateful to all those who participated in this campaign.

The respondents..

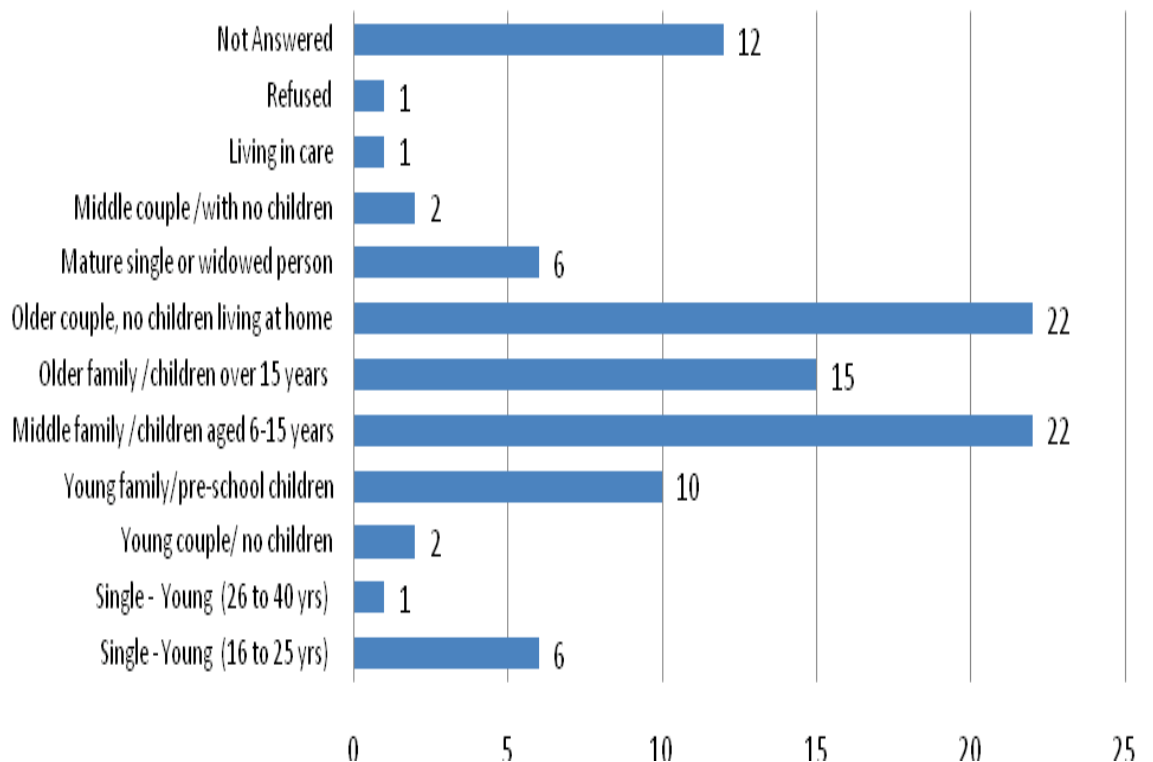
Demographics %



Number of years lived in area



Household Situation



Q1a) “I have personally experienced/observed the warm welcoming community at Holy Spirit

- 91% agreed
- 95% 40-49 yrs agreed (highest result)
- 86% under 30 yrs agreed

Points to note:

- This is a significant difference between those two age groups

Q1b) “How or where have you personally experienced/observed the warm welcoming community at Holy Spirit

- 75% find it through *individual parishioners*
- 69% find it through *Parish events*
- 66% find it through the *Parish House staff*
- 65% find it through the *Christmas Masses*
- 54% find it through the *Easter ceremonies*
- 34% find it through the *parish programs*.
- 19% find it through the *sporting groups*
- 18% find it through the *info available*.
- 16% find it through the *parish groups*
- 6% find it through the *parish services*.

Points to note:

- The way people have experienced/observed warm welcoming at Holy Spirit differs across age groups

Q2a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with... “Attending Mass is an important part of my Catholic identity?”

- 72% agreed
- 93% of 70+ agreed
- 90% of 60-69 agreed
- 80% of 50-59 agreed
- 69% of 40-49 agreed
- 59% of 30-39 agreed
- 43% of under 30 agreed

Points to note:

- Attending Mass was significantly more important for the older age groups 50+ yrs compared to the younger generation 80%+ compared to 43%.

Q2b) How often do you attend Holy Spirit Church?

- 45% attend weekly
- 86% of 70+ attend weekly
- 83% of 60-69 attend weekly
- 58% of 50-59 attend weekly
- 20% of 40-49 attend weekly
- 19% of under 30 & 30-39 yrs attend weekly

Points to note:

- Weekly attendance also increased with age
- 51% attend at Christmas. It was the main event when people attended the Holy Spirit Church
- This was closely followed by Easter with 47%

Q3a) I need/want ongoing access to the Sacraments.

- 80+% of people 50 years agreed
- Approx 72% of 30 to 50 year olds agreed
- 35% of under 30's agreed
- 25% of under 30's disagreed

- 40% of under 30's were unsure

Points to note:

- On average 71% wanted ongoing access to the sacraments
- Once children are born into young families, sacraments are more valued.

Q3b) Which Sacraments would you or might you be interested in personally receiving, now or in the future.

- 89% of the 60 – 69 age group chose Eucharist
- 63% chose Eucharist
- 56% of the under 30 chose marriage

Points to note:

- Sacraments chosen were age relevant

Q3c) To me, being a Catholic/Christian means...

- 71%- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- 65 % - Having a personal relationship with God
- 63% - Belonging to a local community of people with a common purpose for good.
- 57% - Consciously trying to live out the Gospel message in my daily life
- 52% - My family heritage
- 51% - Feeling guided and directed in my life

Q4a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with... “I see the Church as having an ongoing role in my life.”

- 93% aged 70+ agreed
- 58% under 30 agreed
- 81% across all the age groups agreed

Points to note

• 7% indicated that they did not see themselves being involved with Holy Spirit. It's been a huge part of my life, the church, school, basketball and footy teams, fete, communion and confirmation.”

Q4b) Will you seek or choose any of the following in the future?

- 76% - Church Funeral (mainly 50+)
- 80% - Baptism for my children (under 30)
- 80% - Catholic Education for children (under 40)
- 55% - A Wedding in the church (under 30)
- 34% - A Wedding elsewhere with a priest (under 30)

Points to note:

- Multi choice question - respondents free to choose any or all of the options.
- Choices were again age related

Q5a) Personal prayer is an important part of my life.

- 77% agreed
- 44% under 30 agreed
- 37% under 30 disagreed
- 19% Unsure

Points to note:

- **Significant increase in agreement after 30**

To see nowadays the Church's situation is very dangerous, that is why I feel the need to pray much harder, but I hope in God's grace that our prayer is heard"

Q5b) Are you interested or might you be interested in the following forms of prayer?

- 44% Silent Prayer
- 32% Weekday mass
- 26% Age appropriate mass
- 23% Christian Meditation

Q6a) The role of the priest is central to the life of the Parish.

- 86% agreed
- 11% unsure or did not answer
- 3% disagreed

"We have great priests"

"Efforts by the priests to hold it all together"

"Fr Eugene is BRILLIANT. I wish my older children would see him in action more. He should promote himself via ALL the secondary schools.

Q6b) Fr Eugene San, our current Parish Priest has responsibility for two parishes due to the critical shortage of priests in Diocese of Melbourne. Although some of the following ideas are not currently endorsed by the Church, do you think the shortage of priests could/should be addressed by...

- 76% - allowing married priests
- 56% - allowing women priests
- 44% - bringing priests from overseas
- 43% - ordaining/selecting suitable parishioners to serve as leaders
- 37% - praying for more vocations
- This figure increased dramatically with age...
- Under 30 - 10% 70+ - 63%

Points to note:

- Allowing women priests is supported consistently between males & females until 60, where it declines
- Allowing married priests has strong support in the 40 – 60 age bracket.

"the early move to accept Anglican priests/married priests into our catholic faith – this should alleviate some of our shortages"

"the increase in priestly vocations in America, parts of Europe and Asia

"gathering strength in the church in Africa and Asia. Increasing lay involvement & diocese & parish management"

Q7a) "Living out the Gospel message towards others/the community, in today's world is very challenging"

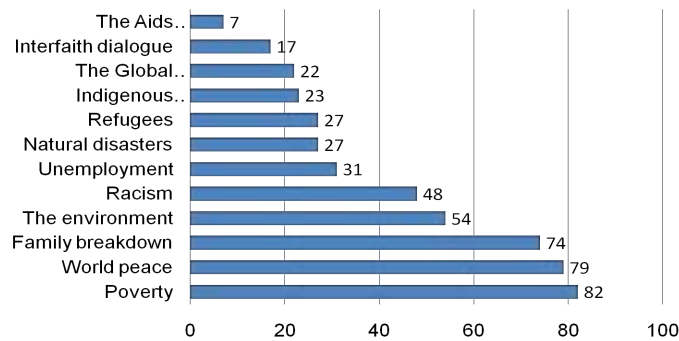
- 75% agreed.
- 88% 70+ agreed.
- 63% under 30 agreed
- 24% 30 – 40 disagree

Points to note:

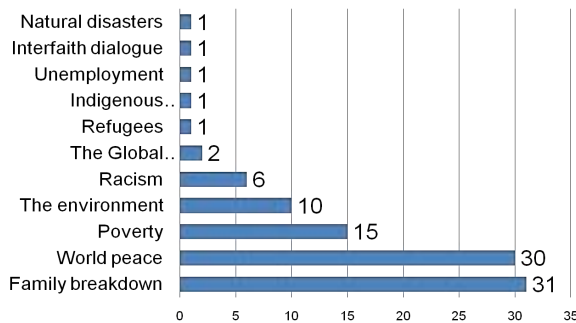
- It is very challenging to a vast majority of people.
- It becomes more and more challenging corresponding to their growing age.

“A rise up of groups eager to help in times of disaster, quiet achievers not prominent in the media news - young and old.”

Q 7b) What do you feel strongly concerned about?



The most strongly felt concern



Points to note:

- Other concerns expressed were - Godlessness, Violence, Abortion, Drugs & Alcohol.

“Awareness and growing concern for our universe. The concern of many for the many displaced people in our society. The ‘witness’ of individual people - caring deeply for others and actively expressing their care.”

Q7c) Are you interested in/or might you be interested in being part of a ‘faith in action’ group with other like minded Catholics?

- 26% answered yes
- 41% 50 to 59 answered yes.
- 13% 40 to 49 answered yes.
- 75% were either not interested / not answer.

Point to note:

- 50 – 59 age group were the most interested
- 40 – 49 age group were the least interested

Q8a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with...“ I am aware of faith enrichment programs provided by Holy Spirit Parish”

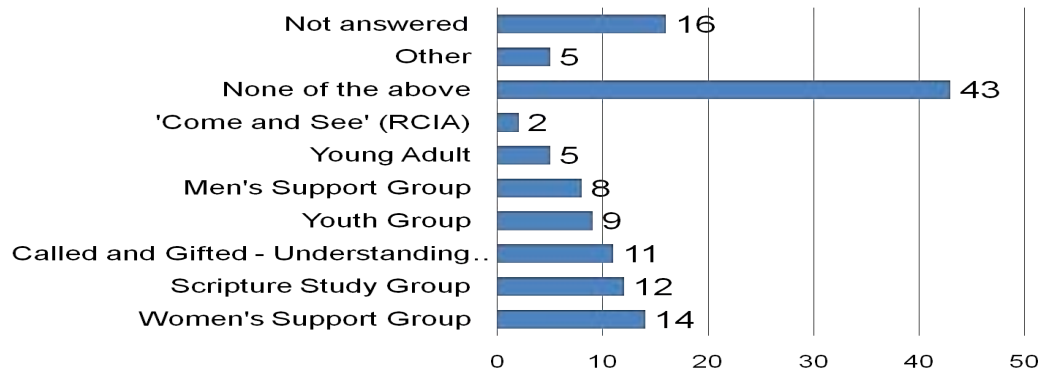
- 57% are aware.
- 72% aged 60 to 69 have the greatest awareness.
- 44% aged 30 to 39 have the least awareness.

- 26% of under 40 were not aware

Point to note:

- Only 10% of people are very familiar with the programs.

Q8b) Are you interested or might you be interested in the following opportunities to deepen your faith?



- 16% expressed their interests in other opportunities such as: Alpha, Christian Meditation, Parish Retreat, Cenacle of Prayer, Family Groups etc.

Q9) "My faith is important to me"

- 88% agreed
- 71% people under 30 agreed – least
- All other age groups were over 92% agreed
- 98% empty nesters agreed
- 10% did not answer or were uncertain

Points to note:

- Parish have many people of faith.
- Need to connect with those under 30.

Q10a) "I have personally experienced/witnessed the ongoing outreach of love and compassion of the Holy Spirit Community"

- 77% agreed
- 19% unsure/did not answer
- 85% aged 60-69 and 30-39 had greatest awareness.
- 3% disagreed

Points to note:

- Percentage that disagree very low
- 85% aged 30-39 agree, very encouraging

Q10b) "Are you aware of the following parish outreach activities/services?"

- 80% St. Vincent de Paul
- 70% Communion visitations
- 67% Parish House assistance
- 59% Grief and loss support

Points to note:

- Communication – internal/external

Q11) I would be open to/seek help from Holy Spirit Community in time of crisis or need"

- 72% agreed
- 23% unsure/did not answer
- 83% aged 70+ agreed - highest
- 63% of those under 30 agreed - lowest

Points to note:

- Perhaps some respondents feel they will not need help?

Q12) “I feel connected to the Holy Spirit Parish Community?”

- 71% agreed
- 23% unsure/did not answer
- 86% aged 70+ agreed – highest
- 52% of those under 30 agreed – lowest
- 21% under 30 disagreed

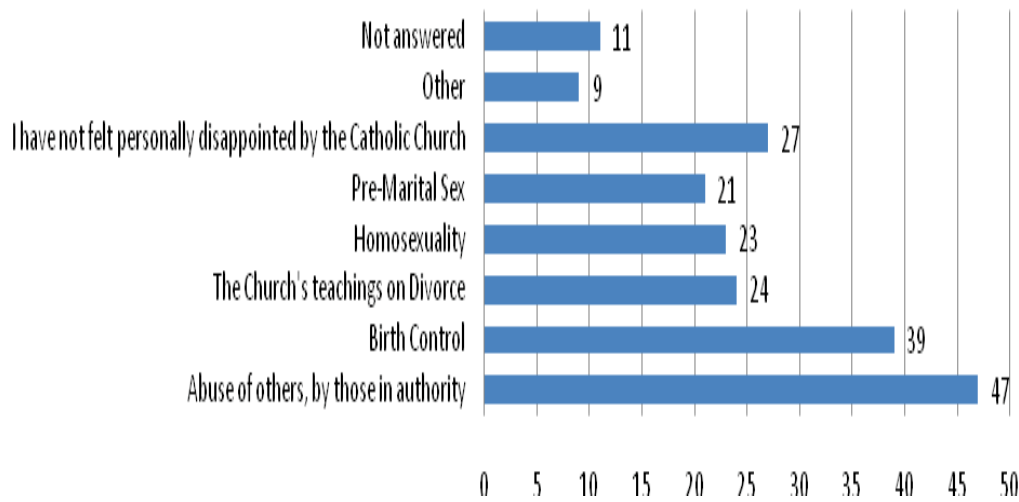
Q13a) Have you felt personally disappointed by the Catholic Church by/through...

- 47% Abuse of others by those in authority
- 39% Church's teaching on Birth Control
- 27% Not felt personally disappointed
- 24% Divorce
- 23% Homosexuality
- 21% Pre-marital sex
- 20% Not answered / other

Points to note:

- 42% Under 30 have not personally felt disappointment
- 45% of females (particularly the 30-59 age group) had issues with Church’s teaching on Birth Control
- Major personal disappointments were:
- 16-29 No disappointment (42%),
Birth Control (33%)
- 30-39 Abuse (54%), Birth Control (47%)
- 40-49 Abuse (48%), Birth Control (42%)
- 50-59 Birth Control (53%), Abuse (52%)
- 60-69 Abuse (68%), Birth Control (42%)
- 70+ Abuse (43%), No disappointment (36%)

Have you felt personally disappointed by the Catholic Church by/through...



Q13b) Has this impacted on your involvement in Holy Spirit Community

- 8% Yes
- 62% No
- 30% Not Applicable / Not Answered

Why?

- 67% Abuse
- 63% Birth Control
- 53% Divorce

Q14a) "Holy Spirit Parish is a Catholic Faith Community striving to live out it's Gospel mission in the world."

- 80% Agreed
- 1% Disagreed
- 19% Unsure / Not Answered

Point to note:

- Under 30 do not feel as strongly about this as those over 30.

Q14b) Do you feel a sense of responsibility to support the Parish financially by...

- 55% Thanksgiving program
- 44% Donations as requested
- 41% User pay
- 10% Feel no responsibility

Point to note:

- 37% under 30 do not feel a sense of responsibility to support
- 18% Unsure / Not Answered
- 79% under 40 support a 'User Pay' and 'Donation' system as requested.

"All members of the Parish. I have found a lack of focus on the teenage/young adult population in the Parish. But it requires more man power and money and there is only so much to go around. It is about priorities."

"assisting needy people, assisting one another"

“Helping those in need, supporting the elderly, those with no family support, those who are lonely and struggling to cope with everyday life.”

Q15) What is your strongest experience of being a Catholic in this Parish?

332 Written Responses

- 32% Sacraments or Church celebrations
- 22% By belonging and feeling a sense of community
- 18% Through care and compassion shown
- 12% By being involved or participating
- 8% By being welcomed
- 8% Through friendships in the Parish

Q16) What do you see happening in the Church/World around you that is hopeful/positive?

275 Written Responses

“Large numbers of Anglicans joining the church. - World Youth Days - The increase of priestly vocations in America, parts of Europe and Asia. - Australia's apology to the stolen generation. - The conversion to catholicism of non-catholics and return to their faith by many lapsed catholics. - "Eternal Word Television Network" (EWTN) now available in Australia. A wonderful source of true catholic teaching.”

“As a church - We are still here! 2000 years on the Christ story continues. For the World the sheer unadulterated goodness of those people who reflect the face of Christ in their daily lives - The young, always so full of hope and new ideas - We need to listen to them. The old so full of life's experience and generally wisdom - They are possibly the most inspirational people around - we need to engage them and listen to them. They generally speaking are dealing with grief and loss on so many levels - age the inability of their bodies to perform as their minds want them to, the loss of social status, the loss of the security in knowing they can direct their own lives - parents and families of all ages, shapes and sizes How can one NOT be hopeful! They outweigh the many bad things”

“Church more concerned with people than protocol since Vatican II. Church leaders more accessible. Pope going on overseas visits etc. More honest too, wrongs not swept under the carpet as they used to be. Better communication between world leaders. More nations at least attempting to understand one another. Nations helping each other in times of crisis - natural disasters, etc.”

“ Church: Not a great deal. I did hear a parishioner say recently that his wife experiences much more community spirit at the Anglican Church.

World: The next generation as they settle down & have families, hopefully.”

“Unfortunately I see only negatives. The Church is beset by clergy who have betrayed us all together with a continual focus on a hierarchy that is out of date and refuses to move with the times. The Church is failing to address the needs of the young and it will not be long before the Churches are empty.”

“Barach Obama's style of leadership, Fr Richard Rohr's version of Emerging Christianity and the movement by the 'People of God' away from the hierarchical model of Church. The recognition of the life of Mary MacKillop in her sainthood.”

“ World Youth Day in Sydney last year helped me to see that there are still a large number of young people whose faith is very important to them which was amazing to see because most of the time it feels like this is not the case”

Q17) What would you like your ‘ideal’ Parish to be focused on?

318 written responses. Of those the following themes emerged

*61 included the word- Youth, *50 – Family, *12 Inclusiveness, *7 - People

- 82% - mentioned community
- 76% - care and compassion
- 29% liturgical celebrations
- 12% - faith development/enrichment programs
- 6% - encouraging participation/involvement

“Jesus Christ and his true teachings”

“A loving, caring and prayerful community”

“A stronger focus on youth, they are the future”

“Being compassionate to all types of people”

“Concern for the sick, aged and poor”

“Family support through the ‘ups’ and ‘downs’

“Getting the younger families back into the Church, who seem to have no focus on the Church”

“PEOPLE< PEOPLE, PEOPLE It is we the extraordinary ordinary people who can bring about the greatest change - Nurture your people and you will grow strong and resilient. I am not sure if this is an appropriate place to voice this opinion however there does not appear to be anywhere else to do so - I am appalled at the question that relates to supporting projects financially within the parish - how can you as a Christian community seriously link the provision for toilets for the disabled with the car parking facilities - One is a basic respect for human dignity, the other is at best, aesthetic convenience. I think this illustrates a very basic flaw in the thinking of our community - We are indeed poverty stricken beyond words in this sense of community thinking. I am embarrassed and ashamed of this glaring lack of compassion and understanding of a basic human right.”

“As a non-catholic I see much that is good in the parish. Areas that may strengthen parish is encouraging younger parishioners and partners of Catholics and through greater connection into the North Ringwood community”

“Gospel values of love and compassion”

“Mass and the Sacraments”

“Living out the faith at all times – Fr Eugene is the perfect example”

NB: Please note the full compliment of written comments (approx 900) are available to read in the Parish House or on short term loan, for those interested. Contact Mary Ryan

THE PARISH FORUM 27th/28th April

All parishioners 16 yrs and over were invited to come together for a meal and a conversation, to hear about the results of the Spirit Search Survey (as above) and have an opportunity to comment and question. Across the 2 sessions approx 90 minutes was given to open forum. Issues raised as most important included ...

- Faith Development & teaching of school children
- As a community we need to BE HOPEFUL
- Knowledge of the Catholic faith, tradition & teachings is important Look after & support families (& couples) – help to foster their involvement in Parish activities and involvement.
- Youth involvement – meaningful liturgies (Church is boring)
- The involvement of youth / children – youth group / youth leadership / coordinator requirement.
- Development of an outreach group – eg Minnie Vinnies
- Disconnection – provide info
- Many different approaches – diversity of points of view
- Respect different points of view – be respectful of others peoples rights
- No programs for over 50's – social groups – accept all people
- Connect to community – give kids ministry & mission – create & foster opportunity
- No consensus of people's thoughts – except for the practising community
- More focus on music ministry – make it more relevant for younger groups
- Families should pray together (Hiroko)
- Lack of interest / apathy (eg Alpha course) – maybe arrogance? (DNC)
- Focus on parents – market the parish (KH)
- Family breakdown is a major issue
- Leadership is non-existent (diocese / bishops BO'c)
- Lack of parental control
- Need to improve from within
- Lack of interest in core values (BO'c)
- People need to understand there is joy and value in coping with difficulties

The questions/results from the survey were then grouped into the 4 main areas of parish life which are reflected in the parish vision statement. Community & Hospitality, Liturgy & Celebration, Faith & Witness, Service & Outreach. Participants entered into a time of consideration, discernment and decision making with each person asked to use their 3 red 'voting' dots to identify the most urgent and important issues for action. They were also invited to use postit notes with ideas for that action. The following information is a collation and outcome of the process undertaken.

Community & Hospitality: 51 votes

Those things that make us a warm human community of inclusive, universal welcome – the hospitality of God

Ideas for action:

- Perhaps more speakers on areas of Theology – prayer. Preventing issues, assistance
- Encouraging young people to read at mass
- Hospitality and community are enablers (tools) of outreach
- Deanery based, mainly social Young Adult Group 18-25 years to give these young people who no longer attend mass a link to the Church. Some do come back to the Church anyway. Many do not.
- Have home masses regularly
- Community: Re-establish Family Groups allowing for groups to compromise a variety of family situations

- Get youth involved
- I think we could be a more welcoming community! ALL of us could take responsibility for introducing ourselves to new faces in the church, and then that could lead to subsequent conversations/invitations/involvements.

Service & Outreach: 36 votes

Those ways in which we reach out beyond ourselves to serve others and draw all being into communion with God

Ideas for action:

- Use school based programs to involve kids and parents in special liturgies – have people of that age run the program
- Service based activities for family/youth eg: Mini Vinnies
- Youth need to do more than socialize – they need an opportunity to work together to improve the lives of others
- Involve the youth
- Communication- website needs to be current-even if the weekly newsletter is simply uploaded – so people know what’s on in any given week. Alpha signboard at entrance like other churches
- Consider inviting school parents to a weekday mass (similar to the evergreens) with morning tea. Many say Sunday is too hard, but weekdays they are here anyway.
- Child friendly Gospels and Homilies. (even adult friendly) Better for all.
- Appeal to past parishioners who no longer attend – they could be examples to their children

Liturgy & Celebration: 25 votes

Those symbols and rituals by which we mark and celebrate our life and mission to transform the world.

Ideas for action:

- Spontaneous prayers at Mass
- Need order of mass (small quantity HS specific) for visitor which covers when to stand, sit, kneel, what to say
- Need a pause (just 30-60seconds before song starts) after homily to digest what was said.
- Sunday Mass-Children activities – religious book to be borrowed during mass on a table at the back. Inc colour-in books (church ones) with textas and crayons. Develop a brochure with hints for children @ mass – to give at Baptism meetings.
- Allow the lead singers to play more of a role in important liturgies – not just give all the music to the choir
- Have a regular “Family Mass” eg: 6pm Sat with more ‘groovy music. (eg Hill Songs) which involves young and young at heart, musicians, readers, ministers etc
- “Outsource” the liturgy for select Sunday masses to select volunteers/groups (including Holy Spirit school classes) to design the liturgy.

- “Family Mass” once a month 10.30. Advertise through school. Music is crucial!
- Welcome Ministry @ door of Church is important – there needs to be more than one person so visitors/new comers can be identified. Visitors table – order of service, card to fill in, ‘Intro to Holy Spirit’ brochure. Invitation to stay for tea/coffee

Faith & Witness: 25 votes

Those ways in which we enrich our faith and witness to it in daily life.

Ideas for action

- How do we get past our apathy – programs? We have programs to learn more (Alpha) but we don’t come. How do we teach people to help themselves?
- Ask the youth of the parish to provide homily notes for 4 occasions during the year. Publicize the dates on which each homily will be delivered
- Find ways to link up with people we do have contact with – people who visit for mass, through school, at Christmas (have something that says what we do and when with website reference) for people to take home. Fete (there should be something to indicate what we do for visitors to read - even if just on a poster board

Youth: 1 vote Family: 1 vote Inclusiveness: 1 vote

All three: 1 vote

Vatican 111:

Those issues not currently endorsed by the Church in Rome

Allowing married priests: 3 votes

- **We can’t change things so why bother thinking about it here!**

Allowing women priests: 1 vote

Have you ever felt personally disappointed by the Catholic Church?: 3 votes

WHERE TO FROM HERE...

The following commitments were made at the Parish Forum

- **Pass on the results of the Spirit Search Survey via the Parish Website, Spirit Magazine and email address provided, school and parish bulletins**

ACTION: Spirit Search Team by June 2010

- **Pass on outcomes of Survey & Parish Forum to PPC and all parish groups.**

ACTION: Spirit Search Team by a.s.a.p

- **Develop ‘Family Mass’ events**

ACTION: Mary Jones by t.b.a

- **Develop new contemporary music ministry by t.b.a**

ACTION: Kerry Haddow and Debbie Neilsen

- **Develop ‘outreach’ event/s**

ACTION: Helen Konynenburg by t.b.a

- **Present completed Pastoral Plan Document to the Parish & PPC**

ACTION: Spirit Search Team by t.b.a

