

# **GEELONG CATHOLIC DEANERY PASTORAL PLANNING 2002**

**“How can the Church in the Geelong region be an effective instrument of the Gospel in the likely event that only nine or ten priests will be available to serve in the region?”**

## ***Background questions for parish discussion***

- What do we mean by parish?
- What do we mean by community?
- How do these two relate to one another?
- What is important for us in parish life?
  - Liturgy
  - Community development
  - Social interaction
  - Education – schools, adult education
  - Anything else?
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- What leadership roles / personnel, paid or voluntary, do we need to facilitate these activities?
- Can some of these leadership roles / personnel be better shared with other parishes .... And how?
- How best can the ‘institutionalised sick’ (i.e. those in hospitals, nursing homes including Rice Village and Grace McKellar, etc) receive appropriate pastoral and sacramental care?
- What changes should we put in place to assist the development of our parish / community life?
- What assistance is needed from us to make our Parish Priests’ role viable?

*Then having looked at -*

- (a) the responses to the Parish Questionnaire;
- (b) the geographical area that is our Deanery;
- (c) the census figures;
- (d) our responses to the above and other related questions

**How do we respond to the “key question” i.e. “How can the Church in the Geelong region be an effective instrument of the Gospel in the likely event that only nine or ten priests will be available to serve in the region?” in terms of -**

- **How many parishes (in canonical sense) do we advise in the region with nine or ten priests?  
What areas do these parishes encompass?**
- **How will our parish most effectively work within this new parish structure?  
i.e. What will work best at the “local level” e.g. facilities, personnel, activities (liturgical, social, pastoral etc.)?**
- **What services / personnel can be effectively shared through two or more parishes?**
- **What other elements of parish / community / church life need to be emphasised so that, in the structure proposed to answer the above three questions, the whole Church is able to operate most effectively as ambassadors of Christ and the Gospel?**

<b>PARISH RESPONSE TO BE RETURNED BY 29 NOVEMBER 2002 TO –</b>
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Geelong Catholic Deanery  
136 Yarra Street  
Geelong Vic 3220

Ph 5229 0926  
Fax 5224 2851