

## PARISH of SPRINGFIELD

Steward of The Gospel

### **A process of discernment to determine the future shape of our church**

In Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis began by exhorting us to be people of joy, to rejoice in the Gospel Message. He tells us that everyone has a right to hear the Gospel Message and everyone who knows it has a duty to proclaim it. We must be a church that attracts people by our witness.

That is a message very clearly reflected by the discernment process started by Bishop Alan. That process is what the Stewards of the Gospel have been appointed to assist with.

We are all invited everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in the Parish of Springfield. Things will change, of that there is no doubt, but how they will change is what this discernment process is about.

Today's vast and rapid cultural changes demand that we constantly seek ways of expressing the unchanging truths of our faith in a language which brings out their abiding newness to each generation.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July I asked for volunteers and I now have a small team who have offered to help me. I am grateful to them. I also told you about three meetings in September, October and November. Please come to them. This discernment process is really important for all of us.

As your Steward I am asked to be the voice of the laity in our parish at various meetings that are taking place over the next couple of years. I cannot be your voice if I do not hear it so please join in this process and have your say at the meetings, talk to me privately or email me.

You can find out a lot about what is going on, see the resources for the process and you can even watch some of our meetings on the Diocese's website.

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/evangelisation/stewards-of-the-gospel/>

Bishop Alan has described this process as a journey and one that must be undertaken with God placed firmly at the centre of everything. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to join in with a diocese wide review of our Church and to plan its future. For this reason can I particularly ask you to pray for the success of this project, for our Bishop and all who are participating in it and for wisdom and right judgement in the decisions that will flow from it.

Thank you.

Steve

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