

# Parish Pastoral Council

## : a reflection on our meeting

The members began with a reflection on gratitude, using Mozart's "Vesperae solennes" as background music. Thanks and gratitude are important attitudes that are needed to be cultivated within the Parish Community in order to appreciate one another on our journey of faith; to accept the word that demands growth and change; and to open ourselves to encounter Christ and one another in an ever-deeper way.

An opportunity for such an encounter has been presented to us in many ways:-

1. in the form of the new translation of the Roman Missal, which will begin this weekend.;
2. in the reflection of the theologies presented by this event and other recent occurrences in the Church;
3. in the discovery of ways in which the Parish and School can interact and worship together;
4. in the beginning of a Pastoral Plan for the Parish, in which, together, we will determine the areas we need to build up within the Parish, and the parts of the Parish that need change;
5. and in the proposed consultation and gathering of Parish Groups.

Our reading of the data for Mass counts opened our eyes to see that we are more than just people who worship here at St Anthony's. We are, in reality, a community that encompasses the Assemblies of St Catherine's Aged Care and the Divine Word Missionaries. Our understanding of Parish, therefore, must be inclusive and appreciative of others. Moreover, our understanding and participation in the wider

Church was highlighted, with the next Ryde Deanery Meeting to include representatives from our Pastoral Council.

We mentioned areas that make up our identity as Parish, namely, the celebration of our Parish Patron – St Anthony of Padua, and the respect and recognition that is needed for significant people who have moulded our Parish story.

We dealt with issues of concern with car parking remaining a problem to the Community; with the use of the Church for events and; with our ability to minister within the Community effectively.

All in all, a very productive meeting that has created some important steps towards growth as a Parish Community.