

Fr. Roy writes:

Following on from the Parish Consultation, the participants were asked for a **statement of Parish Identity**. There was unanimity in the answers given based around the parish being a Christ-centred faith community that worships God in Word and Sacrament and is caring and inclusive of all within the parish and beyond.

Here are some examples of the responses:

“Holy Trinity is a supportive faith community where Christ-centred vision lights the way for young and old by living out the Gospel.”

“Holy Trinity is a Christian faith community based on the worship of God through the Scriptures – especially the Gospels (“Love one another as I have loved you”). We want to be seen as a caring and inclusive community within the parish and beyond.”

“Striving (seeking) to be a Christ centred community.”

“An inclusive body of Christ open for the community.”

“We are an inclusive church in which we worship God, proclaim the Good News of the Risen Jesus in word and sacrament, meet human needs and educate and nurture our community of faith. “

Here is a sampling of the participants’ views on the **Parish Vision**:

“With the love of Christ as our cornerstone, to be role models as loving, caring people, attractive to people of all age groups and shades of belief. This we must do if our church community is to flourish as a vibrant enterprise.”

“By following the Anglican Communion’s Marks and Mission to spread the ‘Good News of the Kingdom’ in a non-threatening way.”

“I have a vision for the parish to be love for those outside our gates.”

“My vision is that we have an inclusive parish in which we worship God with respect and enthusiasm, nurture the people in the Faith and meet people’s needs and that parishioners “own” any vision statement because they have contributed, under God, towards its compilation.”

Also, the participants were asked to name goals and activities which would be in **your Strategic Plan**.

Here are some of their answers:

“Identify, prioritise and nurture growth ministries in the parish. These to strengthen our commitment to being a welcoming, caring group of people enjoying the interest of the wider community and fostering social interaction (e.g. messy church).”

“To work within the community for social justice.” “challenging violence to bring peace and reconciliation”.

“To be open to the needs, frustrations and questions of all people.” “and find a way to serve them in loving service”.

“To be available at all times for others through ministry teams and contacts.”

“To set aside prayer time in our homes and at the church.”

To have

“Doors that are genuinely open to all.”

“Soft edges and points of entry for those who are ‘unchurched’.”

“A biblically literate community whose faith is bursting out.”

“A place where those who are not ‘typically Terrigal’ feel welcome to worship and valued.”

If you have further thoughts about any of these areas in the Parish Consolation process, please write them down, anonymously if you wish, and hand the paper to Fr. Roy. Your input is important as we work through these questions in time for Fr. Brian’s return.