##### *Where do we go from here……………?*

1. If you are a parish priest what do you need to do to help your parish community to communicate more effectively, thereby enabling you to have more time for your specific priestly duties?
2. If you are in a parish with a resident priest, how would you like to see your parish priest enabling your community to communicate more effectively with and without his presence in the future?
3. If your parish is without a resident priest what action do you need to take now, following your reflection?

**Realistic action:**

*(When you have made your plans make sure everyone knows what they are, when they will happen and why they are important.)*

##### *Insert name of your Parish here*

##### *The Parish Bulletin*

##### *………………………… Catholic Church, is part of the Deanery of ………… in the Diocese of ……..*

**The Parish Bulletin**

The parish bulletin is a really important form of communication. Apart from offering information to those attending church, it offers an important link to the sick and housebound, the local school and maybe to others through your parish website.

From time to time it is important to take an objective look at your own parish bulletin, especially if your parish is at a stage of transition.

You may like to consider the following:

* If you were a visitor what impression would your current parish bulletin give?
* If you were a visitor would you be able to understand the information contained?
* Do you agree that a good bulletin should:-

- be clearly set out

- be easy to read with large print copies available and if required, copies in braille too

 - be attractive - with plenty of “white space”

(ie gaps between articles)

 - contain illustrations or clip art

 - use coloured paper if possible

 - be informative

- be the right size - too big or too small puts people off as do too many words

* How is the bulletin put together? Is it the best way using the most appropriate people?
* How do parishioners offer information for the bulletin?
* How many people are on the rota to produce the bulletin?
* Do parishioners know who produces the bulletin?
* How is the bulletin printed?
* How is it distributed? Do visitors always receive one?
* If your parish has no resident priest, does the dean receive a copy?
* Does your parish primary school receive a copy?
* If you are in a ‘cluster’ of parishes, do neighbouring parishes receive a copy?
* Is a copy kept on file?
* Is one posted on the notice board each week?

***A KEY QUOTE TO CONSIDER***

“Whatever else the Church is about, communication is at its centre, so much so that it is possible to describe the Church, as

Cardinal Martini did, as “communication”. That has to be part of the sign we give if we are to be faithful to the mandate and mission

given us by Christ.”

(Bishop Crispin Hollis, March 1996)