

Dear Friends

Happy Fathers Day to all our dear Fathers, and all who fulfil a fathering role for others – have a great day.

I was very pleased with our Harvest Festival celebrations last Sunday – thank you to all who participated and helped make it a lovely celebration of thanksgiving.

I was also delighted at the response to our new Fellowship Group luncheon last Thursday. It was a happy time in the Courtyard at Holy Spirit, with great food, and an enjoyable trip through Sicily with Julie. We are looking forward to next month's gathering. Please tell your friends.

A small group of us met last Saturday to explore a number of areas of being environmentally wise and aware in the Parish. I think this will prove to be a good and positive thing – and follows the guidance of our Diocesan Angligreen group. A number of other Parishes have developed similar groups.

The Southern Regional Clergy conference in Gympie during the week was very uplifting, with good presentations from Fr Ralph Bowles on Natural Church Development and Anne Ogden from Kinnections doing some workshops on leadership approaches. We had a good meeting with the Archbishop who also preached a wonderfully encouraging sermon in the final Eucharist.

Please remember our Back to Church Sunday next Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, and think and pray about someone to invite. If we are happy and like what happens in our Churches here at Holy Spirit and Good Shepherd, then that should encourage us to ask someone along to share what we find good, and to help them find a faith home. It would be great to have a Church full of new and old friends.

The Gospel message this Sunday is a very challenging one. Jesus is being very direct to the crowds that were following him, about what it meant to be a disciple of his. It means sacrifice and commitment and putting him and the call of the kingdom first and foremost. He also cautions about being wise and aware of the cost that is involved, and being prepared. This is all very true, and can only be undertaken in the power and help of God, in prayer and in trust in the Spirit, who equips us and guides us. We take up our Cross and follow Christ, in the knowledge that the God who calls us to do so, loves us beyond price, as he loved Christ, and that in him, all truth, beauty and goodness await us. May we be conscious of the call of Christ in our lives this week, and may the God of love surround us and sustain us.

With love, Rev Bev