

St Bridget's Catholic Church

GREYTHORN

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Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we celebrate Father's Day, which like all our other celebrations this year, has to be observed in different circumstances and limitations. Hopefully, before too long we will be able to meet and celebrate life more fully.

Father's Day is also the day for the annual appeal for the Priests' Retirement Foundation, which "cares for those who cared". The Archdiocese has roughly 90 retired priests (with a few more to retire soon). The annual Father's Day appeal is a major source of support for them - accommodation, living expenses, and health care. Those of you who have the Stewardship packs will find an envelope included for donations, but others can donate online: go to www.cam1.org.au/foundation/.

This week we celebrate Child Safety Week, and next Sunday will be the observance of Child Safety in all Catholic parishes. In terms of our parish compliance with the policies and requirements regarding child safety, the parish has not been able to form an adequately resourced Safeguarding Committee, despite the efforts of several parishioners. Thus the Parish of St Anne and St Bede committee will be expanded to include two members from St Bridget's, to form a joint committee. The existing committee has been working throughout the lockdown on the self-audit which must be presented to the Archdiocesan Professional Standards Unit by the end of November. That work will be expanded to include the relevant areas for St Bridget's.

Every dark cloud has a silver lining, and in that regard, the present lockdown allows us to bring up to date the Archdiocesan and legal requirements for volunteers in the parish. In the next few weeks all volunteers will be contacted to sign the Code of Conduct, and to ensure that WWCC's are up-to-date and all those who also require a Police Check have provided one.

I have been informed that in the next few weeks the first round of documents will be received for the transfer of school governance to the Archbishop. As you know, on 31 December the Archbishop will take over governance of all parish primary schools in Melbourne. This is part of the Church's response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission and recent legislative changes by the state government. I will keep you informed of how we will move forward with this.

Thank you to all those who are joining the Friday evening prayer and chat. It is good to see parishioners from across all four church communities joining in.

Have a safe and blessed week.

Fr John Salvano