

## **Q 6. How can we help?**

Many parishioners have asked this question in different forms. There are many ways in which it might be answered. Here are some of them:

- REFLECT – on the realities of life in our communities from your own experience and observation in recent times. What is happening that is good, true and Gospel driven? Where do you think we can do better – or something new – in order to serve the Church’s mission?
- PRAY – that the Holy Spirit will get us moving! and will inspire individuals and groups to come together in a Christ-centred community, giving of their gifts and talents in the service of others and the Gospel.
- DISCERN – don’t ask what your Parish can do for you - but what you can do for your Parish. How might you contribute? We need to strengthen and enliven our existing ministries – but also to start new initiatives, try different ideas, serve in other ways. We need new faces, original insights, contemporary takes, the wisdom of elders, the enthusiasms of youth
- ENCOURAGE – be positive, hopeful and helpful!
- OFFER – to join an existing ministry (eg Saint Vincent de Paul, a prayer group, Scripture study, church cleaning, Grief and Loss, youth ministry, Eucharistic ministry, sacristan, Children’s liturgy...) or to explore the possibilities of new, different ministries.

## **Q 7. What systems are/will be in place to respond to emergency situations (eg death and ill health)?**

The Parish response service is under review and re-construction. Currently, in an emergency ring the Parish number 04 478 7137

## **Q 8. What thought has been given to a fair representation of women/ethnicity in the LFT?**

A lot! The LFT is a remnant from the original Merger Consultation Team from 2014-2015. It currently comprises 7 men and 4 women. Ethnic backgrounds broadly include Samoan, Indian, Cook Islands and European. We want more representatives who can support the model from our different ethnic

communities – and the obvious need is for team members from our Philippine and Maori communities. This is being pursued along with consideration of the structure of the LFT itself, which could become too top-heavy in numbers.

In 2000 one of our parishioners, Mollie Dean, reflecting on the Church of the 1950s recalls not understanding why she, a young woman, could not go past the altar rails into the sanctuary but her husband could - because he was male! Why were men more blessed than she was? Why wasn't she as important as a man in God's eyes? She was happy when much of the discrimination disappeared. However, there is still a long way to go! As the LFT we earnestly promote and endorse more women in roles of responsibility, influence and authority in our Church – from our own community to the corridors of the Vatican! We can see no other viable future for the Church in today's world. This has long been neglected – it is time for deep and meaningful change.

We see the variety of ethnic cultures in our community as a reflection of the endless beauty and variety that is found in God. Differences – *all* differences - are to be respected and celebrated. Otherwise we are not a true Gospel community.