

# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD

## 2019 Appeal

Week 2

*transforming lives  
giving for life*

### The Parish in the Future

For three weeks in the parish there is a review of our Parish Activities and an Appeal for support.

- *Last week* we presented the Management Accounts for 2018.
- *This week* we look at the Parish in the Future – “even better if...”
- *In week 3* we’ll consider How current & future costs can be met.

## The Future

Bishop Richard has, over the last year, visited every deanery in the Diocese, to raise questions and to listen. The resulting vision is centred around Prayer, Formation and Mission. This Consultation was timely for Guildford – as we have a relatively new parish clergy team and have been looking with them at how to develop our parish life.

## **The Review**

On the following pages are summaries of the three Reviews of Prayer, Formation & Mission which were undertaken by groups of parishioners from the various communities of the parish. Clearly any action plan would need to be prioritised over the next few years, however it gives a framework.

## **The Costs**

Although it is hoped that much of the work arising from the reviews would be undertaken by parishioners as volunteers there will be costs involved. Part of the costs will also be raised from donations by participants but each of the proposed Groups: **Prayer, Formation and Mission** will need a budget.

This will cover, training costs, resources- books, DVD's etc., office costs, printing etc., visiting speakers & presenters and there may also need to be some p/t paid hours.

Over the last year the office and clergy have shared much of the work which was previously undertaken by the **Parish Administrator**. This is not a sustainable model, particularly as we look to future planning and would now like to take the opportunity to appoint a new Administrator.

It is envisaged that a '**Pastoral Hub**' would be formed with a new office in St. Joseph's Hall next to the CYF Office. This would also be the base for the Parish Administrator ensuring good communication between staff and volunteers.

The space in the Café could be used during the day and developed as a resource base for all those involved in Prayer, Formation and Mission and the pastoral life of the parish.

## Week 2 - The 'Bottom Line'

**We need to raise:**

<b>Prayer, Formation &amp; Mission</b>	<b>£15,000</b>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<b><u>£25,000</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£40,000</b>
<b>Diocesan levy on the above</b>	<b><u>£21,000</u></b>
<b>Total funds to raise</b>	<b><u>£61,000</u></b>

This will be in addition to the day to day shortfall, which we will review in **Week 3**.

LITURGY & PRAYER	What is going well !	Even better if..
<b>Mass</b>		
Liturgy Committees	Three of the parish communities have a Liturgy Committee.	A Committee in every community with full membership & guidelines. Proper preparation and planning of every liturgy – choice of music etc.
Rotas & Coordination	Many faithful & reliable ministers	Develop general understanding of the vital need for the various ministries & recruit ministers!
Churches	Churches are suited for the celebrations	Some Decoration, PA Systems etc., need attention
Sacristy	Good teams of Sacristans, flowers, cleaners	More volunteers needed Some of the vessels, vestments & servers also need renewal
Servers	Two of the communities have local MCs	An MC from every community - Recruitment of more servers.
Prayers before Mass	8 out of 9 Masses have a time of prayer for Ministers.	Prayer time for Ministers before every Mass. Silent space for Presider before Mass.
Welcoming Ministry	All Sunday Masses have a welcome on arrival.	Invite the Diocese to lead a day of Formation / Renewal. Sense of responsibility for all during whole Mass: Stewards. Involve more young people in the ministry of welcome.
Gathering		Encouragement of prayer / silent preparation.
Musicians & Choirs	There is music at most Sunday Masses. Organists are available for all Funerals.	There is a need for more Organists & Musicians Offer made for Monthly Children's Choir at St. Joseph's.
Liturgy of the Word		More Readers Days for formation & reflection. Increase number of trained young people.
Children's Liturgy	Well planned & coordinated.	More formed volunteers. Greater sense of <u>Liturgy</u> of the Word
Homilies	Positive feedback: but....	... recognition that more time needed for clergy preparation
Prayers of the Faithful	Two of the communities has a rota of people preparing the prayers.	Formation for those writing of the prayers. Sharing of resources across Communities
Communion	Good number of Reflection days for Ext. Mins	Increase number of Extraordinary Ministers
Communion to the Sick	New Coordinator for visits (Sr. Theresa)	Encouragement of increase Communion to the Sick from Mass
Sending Forth	Most parishioners wait for the Procession!	Reduce scale of notices. Handout A&B / Leaflets after Mass

<b>LITURGY &amp; PRAYER</b>	<b>What is going well !</b>	<b>Even better if..</b>
<b>Sacrament of Penance</b>	There are currently times at each of the Churches – significant numbers attend.	However some parishioners do not attend: better formation? Increase the number of opportunities –especially for families.
<b>24 Hours for the Lord</b>	The shared 24 hours with Farnham Parish supported by the Deanery.	A greater integration with Children's 1 <sup>st</sup> Confessions in Lent.
<b>Baptisms</b>	Baptisms are celebrated outside of Mass – usually Singularity	An increased number of Baptisms during Mass where family known. The development of group Baptisms. More support for the Baptism planning and celebration.
<b>First Communion</b>	The CYF Team provide excellent planning for the celebrations.	A greater partnership with local Liturgy Committees. Revisit the role of Prayer Sponsors.
<b>Confirmation</b>	The CYF Team plan and celebrate as one of two Deanery Masses	This may need to be revisited when Dorking join the Deanery. Revisit the role of Prayer Sponsors.
<b>Marriage</b>	Marriage Preparation Team excellent.	Formed parishioners available to help couples plan their Liturgy.
<b>Funerals</b>	The clergy offer great deal time / support	Formed parishioners available to help plan Liturgy / Booklet
<b>Morning &amp; Evening Prayer</b>	Many parishioners pray the Divine Office.	Times of introduction to encourage others.
<b>Exposition &amp; Adoration</b>	Number of opportunities across parish.	Time of Adoration at St. Edward's. Better publicity e.g. Vigil of Adoration at St. Joseph's (1 <sup>st</sup> Sat)
<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	Each of the communities have times of the Stations of The Cross each Lent.	There is a need for clearer planning, communication and formed parishioners to lead.
<b>The Triduum</b>	Each of the elements of the Triduum are well attended in each of the churches.	With three priests and possibly two in the future a rationalisation needs to take place.
<b>Marian Procession</b>	There is a Procession at St. Mary's each May.	The whole parish might be encouraged to be part of this liturgy.
<b>Corpus Christi Procession</b>	There is a Thursday Procession in St. Edwards.	The greater involvement of the parish & FHC Children
<b>Prayer Groups</b>	Some groups meet in the Churches / homes.	Greater awareness and invitation. New groups established.
<b>Days of Retreat</b>	The three Lent '18 Retreat days were popular.	More regular part of the Parish Year... Advent / Monthly?
<b>Spiritual Direction</b>	Some parishioners value use of SD	Make better use of SD network. Train local SD's (Deanery?)
<b>Weeks of Guided Prayer</b>	Offer from Bishop Richard to provide locally.	Make good use of the opportunity – encourage
<b>Lectio Divina</b>	Some groups meet e.g. St. Pius 9.30am.	More groups to prepare for the Sunday Liturgy.
<b>Liturgy Training &amp; Resources</b>	Excellent Resources are available	Volunteers and parishioners need help signposting / organising.

# Final Report of the Formation Working Group

## Parish Faith Formation

### A process of accompaniment as faith matures

#### Introduction

From his discussions around the diocese, Bishop Richard has identified prayer, mission and formation as the three main themes for renewal within Arundel and Brighton. Taking up these themes, which corresponded with his initial impressions in Guildford, Mgr. Tony sought an initial review of how they functioned in the parish.

This report on formation reflects the dialogue between a small group of parishioners from across the parish. All have some experience as catechists and some have experience of formation at diocesan and national level. The intention was to offer an appraisal of what formation entails, what we are already doing and what we should aim to be doing going forward. It is not intended that this report and the preliminary framework, which accompanies it, should be the final word. It is strongly recommended that before the parish embarks on any major development it engages in a period of parish wide discernment which allows us to avoid factionalism, benefit from the insights of all the faithful, and discern the direction in which the Holy Spirit is guiding us.

#### Faith Formation

Echoing his predecessors, Pope Francis has called for the Church to be outward looking, to focus on mission. Moving the Church from maintenance to mission has become the focus of much work in many dioceses including our own. If we in Guildford are to respond to this initiative then we must acknowledge what Pope Paul VI said in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* back in 1975 and re-evaluate our values, interests and thinking, in fact everything that informs how we see the world and act in the world. Even those of us who have spent our entire lives in contact with the Gospel need to 'deepen, consolidate and nourish' our faith, and allow it to mature. This then is the aim of parish faith formation. It is about creating mature, responsible Christians, who are able to bear witness to the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15) through word and deed. It is a process of continual renewal and conversion. A preliminary definition of formation might be 'life-long accompaniment as faith matures'.

It is worth noting at the outset that it is God that does the forming. We are only his instruments. We must take care that we do not set limits on God's work by trying to make it fit into our own preconceptions. Consequently, formation should always be rooted in prayer, and reflection on Scripture. Formation is essentially about forming disciples of Jesus Christ. In this we are obeying the commandment to 'make disciples of all nations; baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you....' (Mt. 28:19-20). To be a disciple is to be one who learns. Formation helps us become life-long learners. If we are to become disciples, then we must grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and of our neighbours.

Formation tries to weave a number of strands into a complex whole. Our growth to mature faith is nurtured by a community of faith to which we can really belong and to which we offer our individual gifts and talents. It is strengthened by Sacraments, liturgy and personal prayer. It involves the whole of our lives not just what happens at church. It informs how we deal with life's joys and sorrows. It begins with the youngest and continues throughout our lives. It provides support for families and for single people and those with diverse orientations and life styles.

The Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization in 2012 was quite clear that the starting point for formation is Scripture and primarily the Gospel, which gives a person the opportunity of knowing Jesus. Formation is also about improving one's knowledge of doctrine, gaining the greatest benefit from liturgy, developing a capacity for prayer and contemplation, and inspiring a desire to witness to the faith through a commitment to the Church's social teaching.

## **Formation in the Catholic Parish of Guildford**

Across the parish we are already doing many things that play their part in formation. Participation in liturgical celebrations, Scripture study, serving as ministers, membership of various parish groups, charitable outreach etc. all help to form us as Christians. They help to make us who we are; to see the world through Catholic eyes. They help to form our consciences and sacramental imagination. It inspires us to witness to our faith by our lives. What people often feel is lacking is the language required to express what they know intuitively. We need this to give an account of the hope that is within us, to refute criticism, to inspire our young people and to make the Gospel available to those who have not heard it.

We need a well-planned and ongoing programme that meets the varied needs of all parishioners wherever they are on their journey of faith. We have elements of this such as Alpha, RCIA and occasional talks and workshops but, good though these are, they do not represent a coherent progressive program. What is required, if we are to move our parish out of maintenance mode and orientate it towards mission, is something much more comprehensive that is accessible to all people. A programme that draws together all that we already do and allows us to reflect on why we are doing it: a process of accompaniment as faith matures.

To develop and manage this process of accompaniment will require time and expertise and some of this may need to be funded. Trained volunteers will no doubt play their part but ensuring that the momentum of such a programme is not lost will require an ongoing commitment and may require the oversight of a paid co-ordinator. It is perhaps unsurprising that the area of formation that is currently most developed, namely the Youth Ministry, has an employee leading it. Resources will also be required and although some of the costs of these can be recouped from those involved in a given program it is important that no-one feels excluded for financial reasons.

The accompanying 'Preliminary Framework' is only offered as an indication of what a well-structured approach to formation would involve. It is not intended to be a blue print but a starting point for discussion and debate. The individual strands in the framework do not stand alone. They are each part of an integrated whole and as such there are obvious points of connection between them. Formation itself is clearly linked to mission, and prayer and liturgy, which are themselves formative. Again, there is clearly a need for integration between all these elements.

Consideration will need to be given to the parish structure and whether it is appropriate to our needs as the process of discernment unfolds. It will be important to be flexible and to allow what we want to achieve to determine our structure rather than the structure dictating what we can do.

There are a number of initiatives that could be taken immediately without prejudicing future development. These include:

- A structured course for all catechists (perhaps Discovery from the Faith Study Series).
- An annual outreach course offered free to anyone who want to attend (perhaps Alpha).
- A structured process of discernment leading to a whole parish gathering to launch a parish pastoral plan which incorporated formation and mission both firmly rooted in prayer and liturgy.

The members of the discussion group were:

Chris Richardson (Convener), Kate Carter (St Pius), Peter Charlwood (St Joseph's), Kelly Collins (St Mary's), Vicky Fulcher (St Edward's), Aseel Gilbert (St Joseph's & CPG), Peter Ward (St Edward's), John Williams (St Pius).

July 2018

Catholic Parish of Guildford  
**Research on MISSION**  
Conversations with 20 people  
from all four church communities  
May-July 2018. *Pat Jones*

**What already happens**

**Practical witness to the Gospel through solidarity with people who are poor or vulnerable in some way**

SVP : Support for Number Five: for Footsteps: Christmas Gifts for Prisoners' families:  
Guildford Street Angels: CAFOD: Project Peru: The diocesan Refugee Project: the parish  
refugee project: St Pius 10% collection: support for many other charities: Missio

**What we understand by mission**

**Two overlapping responses:**

**Grow in holiness so we can share our faith with others and attract them to the Gospel**

**Get more deeply involved in serving others; doing God's work in the world, especially with people who are poor.**

Both of these are part of mission. But most people feel called more strongly by one of these aspects than the other.

The common thread that links them: everyone believes that relationships matter. This means welcoming people and building belonging and community in our parish.

**Work for justice and peace**

Selling Traidcraft products: support for fair trade: the parish justice and peace group: cards to prisoners of conscience: care-free Sunday: peace vigils: meetings on *Laudato Si'*: pre-election meetings: campaigning: Guildford Life Group.

**Building up and serving our local community**

Schools: baby and toddler groups: parenting skills programme: CAP money management course: lunch clubs for older people in all four churches: ecumenical co-operation: parish facilities used for community purposes.

**Proclamation: being explicit about our faith in Christ**

Happening in everybody's daily life: and in the Children Youth and Families programme: baptism and marriage preparation: housegroups: Holy Week Walk of Witness: Healing on the Streets: Groups that nourish faith, like teams of Our Lady.

**Welcoming enquirers and making new members of the Church**

The RCA: the Children Youth and Families programme: the welcoming ministry: the website.

**What people said about the future: 6 priorities and some action suggestions**

**1. Strengthen basic structures and resources; effective communication is vital**

Weekly newsletter: re-build parish mission group; use social media and the website more effectively: tell more stories about what's happening: a ministries fair? Use the database effectively: a high quality operations manager for the parish.

**2. Develop a leadership vision and parish narrative with a stronger focus on mission, combining mission as sharing our faith with mission as service of the poor and social action to build a better society.**

Building a story about the parish and mission through Sunday Mass: bring more of what's happening in the world around us into parish discussion: stir people's social conscience; find some lively communicators.

**3. Strengthen 'mission inwards'; building better welcome, hospitality and relationships in the church communities and across the parish. Newcomers are particular priorities. Mission inwards includes opportunities for people to deepen personal relationships with Christ.**

Try new events such as a sing-along; or name badges at Mass; experiment! Give welcoming ministry a higher profile; regular social evenings for newcomers and parishioner hosts; work out how to build bridges across all the groups in the parish.

**4. Develop the area of pastoral care across the parish.**

Develop pastoral care and support in the areas of bereavement, mental health, dementia and other challenges. Become a dementia-friendly parish. Work out how to support families experiencing crisis and breakdown.

**5. Make some new parish commitments in social mission, building support and involvement gradually.**

Do more to support ex-prisoners: become a 'Live Simply' parish: see whether there are struggling local charities we could do more to support.

**6. Find ways to help people become more comfortable sharing their faith.**

More teaching, especially about scripture; more opportunities to deepen spiritual life; weeks of guided prayer. The Alpha course or other courses.