

Evening Prayer of the Church

In Celebration of the Feast
of the Chair of Saint Peter

During the Diocesan Stage
of the Synodal Process



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Words of Welcome

Welcome to our Cathedral Church of Saint Barnabas, the mother church of the Diocese of Nottingham, as we gather tonight to celebrate Vespers, Evening Prayer of the Church, with our Bishop, Patrick, and people from all the parishes and deaneries of our diocese.

We gather on the feast of the Chair of Saint Peter. This isn't a celebration of a chair per se, but rather that symbolic recognition of the way in which the Pope is the symbol of unity in the Church.

Just as we see the crown as being symbolic of the monarchy, and on important occasions HM The Queen wears her crown, so the chair is symbolic of the office of the Bishop. Our cathedral takes its name from the Latin word cathedra, meaning chair, and what makes a cathedral isn't the size of church, or the beauty of the stained glass, but rather that it's the place in which the bishop has placed his chair, the symbol of his role to teach, govern, and sanctify the people of the diocese entrusted to him.

Today's feast recognises the chair in Rome, in the Basilica of Saint John in Lateran, by which the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, gathers all the people of the world in unity to know and to love God. Through this office the Pope teaches all people of good-will, he governs the Church in every place where the Gospel message has been preached, and he sanctifies the world through the sacraments Christ has left us.

In the gospel for today's feast we hear Jesus' question: "But you, who do you say I am?" and the response of Simon Peter: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus commends Peter for his response, telling him that this has been revealed by 'my Father in heaven.' We pray for some of that revelation and discernment in our own lives and times, as we listen to the Holy Spirit and try to discern what God is asking of us for God's Church.

Tonight it is entirely fitting that we, the people of our diocese of Nottingham, gather in unity around Bishop Patrick in the Cathedral, the place where his cathedra resides. As one people united in our faith and love of Jesus Christ we will try ever more deeply to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in our hearts and souls. And together, under the shepherding of our bishop, we will walk more closely on that path of holiness to which we are called – to be the saints God is calling each one of us to be.

Celebration of Evening Prayer

Cathedral Church of Saint Barnabas, Nottingham

Tuesday 22nd February 2022 : 7.00pm

Led by the Right Reverend Patrick McKinney

Bishop of Nottingham



The Diocese of Nottingham

Greeting

*As the Bishop's Procession makes its way to the sanctuary, **all stand***

Bishop Patrick
All

○ God, come to our aid.
○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Bishop Patrick

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,

All

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

All join in singing the opening hymn, to the tune Gonfallon Royal, which is led by Grantham Deanery, with the organ being played by the dean, and parish priest of Saint Joseph's parish, Oakham, with Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Exton, Father Stephen Dye

All

○ Peter, who were named by Christ
The guardian-shepherd of his flock,
Protect the Church be built on you
To stand unyielding, firm on rock.

Your weakness Christ exchanged for strength,
You faltered, but he made you true;
He knew the greatness of your love
And gave the keys of heaven to you.

Unseen, eternal Trinity,
We give you glory, praise your name;
Your love keeps faith with faithless men.
Through change and stress you are the same.

*At the end of the hymn all are invited to **sit down***



Grantham Deanery Highlights

The highlights are presented by Andrew Wakley, of Saint Mary Immaculate parish, Grantham, a deacon in formation

Overall, the key issues are:

- i) improve basic adult catechesis;
- ii) make parishes become welcoming, reaching out to embrace all particularly through support networks and social activities.

As these themes are common throughout the deanery, we should discuss how to support each other and share solutions and activities.

All remaining sitting for the Psalmody



First Psalm

The first psalm, psalm 115(116B), is sung by Maureen Tunney, of Saint Philip Neri parish, Mansfield, representing Sherwood Deanery. All join in singing the response

Response C7 F Bb C | To verses |
Capo 3 A7 D G A F D

I will walk in the presence of God.

I trusted when I felt afflicted,
I walk in the sight of the Lord,
and even in the face of death
I will walk in the presence of God.

Your servant, Lord, is ever trusting.
My bonds you have loosened with care.
I offer thanks and sacrifice,
I will walk in the presence of God.

My vows to God I keep with gladness,
I dwell in the house of my Lord.
My promises I will fulfil.
I will walk in the presence of God.



Sherwood Deanery Highlights

The highlights are presented by Sister Susan Richert PBVM, of Saint Joseph's parish, Shirebrook, Vicar for Religious in the Diocese

The image of the OPEN DOOR.

Faith development / faith formation / catechesis.

Social events.

Inviting other groups into the community.

Young people – need opportunities to meet with Clergy and challenge assumptions.

Community café – Inclusion – Churches together – enter into and work together.

Evangelisation / re-evangelisation / coming back to church.

Focus on families.

Be progressive – social media / communication.

Prayer and Mission outreach.



Second Psalm

The second psalm, psalm 125(126), is read by a member of Derby Deanery

While Peter was held in prison the Church prayed unceasingly to God for him.

When the Lord delivered Sion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

While Peter was held in prison the Church prayed unceasingly to God for him.



Derby Deanery Highlights

Lenten Project:

taking the sacrament of reconciliation to the people in Derby's market square.



Canticle

The canticle, taken from the first chapter of Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians, is chanted by Father Limnyuy, assistant priest in the parishes of Saint Bernadette, Scunthorpe, Holy Souls, Scunthorpe, Saint Norbert, Crowle, and Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Gainsborough, representing Lindsey Deanery

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and blameless before him.

He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.

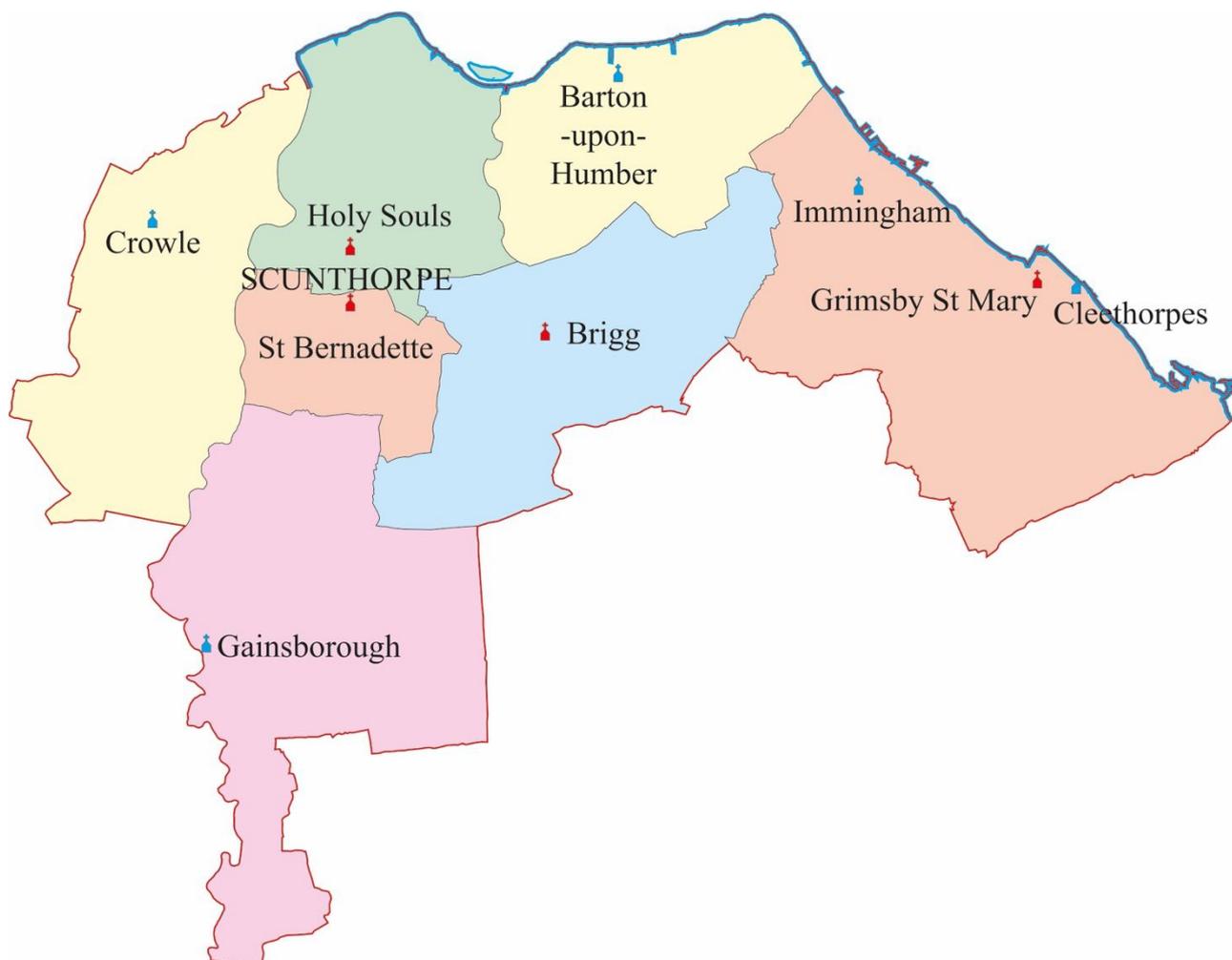


Lindsey Deanery Highlights

The highlights are presented by Father Limnyuy Gamsi and Ellie Leeson

Social and Environmental Justice.

Increased outreach to Young People.



Scripture Reading

The reading of Sacred Scripture is preceded by the singing of a Song of Welcome, led by Father Gabriel Offor, parish priest of Saint Wilfrid of York parish, Coalville, and a choir

All are invited to stand

Let us rise to greet the word of God the word of God is here with us it is alive.

The word gives hope the word gives joy the word gives peace let us rise to greet the word the word is alive.

Let us clap to greet the word of God the word of God is here with us it is our hope.

The word gives hope the word gives joy the word gives peace let us rise to greet the word the word is alive.

Let us dance to greet the word of God the word of God is here with us it is our joy.

The word gives hope the word gives joy the word gives peace let us rise to greet the word the word is alive, the word is alive.

Father Gabriel then proclaims the Gospel (Luke 10:25-27):

Father Gabriel

All

Father Gabriel

All

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

A lawyer stood up and to test him asked 'Master what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?' He replied, 'you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus said to him, 'you have answered right, do this and life is yours.'

The gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are invited to sit



Loughborough Deanery Highlights

Father Gabriel presents the Deanery Highlights

Loughborough's highlights include:

- promoting the faith through our schools and engaging with the youth of today;
- better communications between diocese, priests, and the Church family;
- to reach out to those who have either lapsed or left the Church post-pandemic;
- to reclaim Sunday for the Church from secular activities – but also Catholicity is not just a Sunday ritual;
- we need clarity on Church dogma to enable meaningful dialogue with the many – divorced people, women members of the Church, secular questions;
- “Jesus did most of his good work outside – we need a Church that goes outside too”.

Homily

Bishop Patrick preaches to all assembled, in person in the Cathedral, and virtually across our diocese

*At the end of the Bishop's homily **we stand**, and pray together the Synod Prayer*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.

Responsory

Maggie Braley, Mark Smith and Kathy Chapman, from Our Lady of Perpetual Succour's parish, Belper, representing Amber Valley Deanery, lead the congregation in singing, in response to the Sacred Scripture

Oh the word of my Lord,
 deep within my being,
oh the word of my Lord,
 you have filled my mind.

Before I formed you in the womb
 I knew you through and through,
 I chose you to be mine.
Before you left your mother's side
 I called to you, my child,
 to be my sign.

I know that you are very young,
 but I will make you strong
 - I'll fill you with my word;
and you will travel through the land,
 fulfilling my command
 which you have heard.

And ev'rywhere you are to go
 my hand will follow you;
 you will not be alone.
In all the danger that you fear
 You'll find me very near,
 your words my own.

With all my strength you will be filled:
 you will destroy and build,
 for that is my design.
You will create and overthrow,
 reap harvests I will sow –
 your word is mine.

Damian Lundy



Amber Valley Deanery Highlights

*At the end of the hymn all are invited to **sit down***

Father Michael Kirkham, dean of Amber Valley and parish priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Belper, with Saint Margaret Clitherow, Duffield, and of Saint Joseph, Ripley, presents the Deanery Highlights

The upwelling of a deep desire to:

realise the opportunities of the Second Vatican Council;

find new and more effective ways of presenting the Gospel to evangelise and form disciples;

be more active in Christian witness and ecumenical outreach to the communities around us.



Gospel Canticle

All stand for the Gospel Canticle, led by James Morris of Holy Family parish, East Nottingham

*My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices.
My God forever he will be, bless his holy name.*

He looks upon me, his servant,
looks on me in my lowliness.
He works marvels for me,
henceforth all ages call me blessed,
call me blessed.

He scatters the proud-hearted,
casts the mighty from their thrones.
His mighty arm before me,
in strength he raises the lowly,
raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with plenty,
but empty sends the rich away.
From age to age his mercy,
the mercy promised us forever,
promised forever.

*Words based on Luke 1:46-55
Music by Joanne Boyce
Copyright © 1996 CJM Music*

*At the end of the Canticle all are invited to **sit down***



Nottingham Deanery Highlights

The highlights are presented by Canon Michael Brown, pastoral dean of Nottingham Deanery, and parish priest of the Holy Spirit parish, West Bridgford, and Our Lady of Grace parish, Cotgrave

The church is declining in membership, not just the Catholic Church.

Possible reasons:

- adverse publicity;
- out of date and out of step;
- eroding of parish communities.

Re-evaluate the nature of ministry and empower the laity:

- can deacons celebrate Mass;
- ordination of women to the priesthood.

Inclusion, especially the LGBT + community.

The overall themes to develop and improve:

- Relationships;
- Engagement;
- Community;
- Youth;
- pastoral leadership;
- outreach.



Intercessions

The intercessions are led by Father Dominic O'Connor, dean of Fenland Deanery, and parish priest of Saint Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary's parish, Boston

Father Dominic Since we are part of a building that has the apostles for its foundation, let us pray to the Father for his holy people.

All **Lord, remember your Church.**

Father Dominic Father, when your Son rose from the dead, you showed him first to the apostles; let us make him known, near and far.

All **Lord, remember your Church.**

Father Dominic You sent your Son into the world to proclaim the good news to the poor: grant that we may bring his gospel into the darkness of men's lives.

All **Lord, remember your Church.**

Father Dominic You sent your Son to plant in men's hearts the seed of imperishable life; may we labour to sow his word and reap a harvest of joy.

All **Lord, remember your Church.**

Father Dominic Before ascending into heaven your Son commanded us to spread the good news, grant wisdom and strength to Bishop Patrick as he leads our diocese forward in mission and to all who will work with him in this task.

All **Lord, remember your Church.**

Father Dominic Heavenly Father, your Son told us as good disciples to bring out treasures new and old; grant that whilst holding firm to the integrity of the faith, we might embrace new methods and charisms in spreading the faith and work with all people of good will in spreading the gospel.

All **Lord, remember your Church.**

Father Dominic You sent your Son to reconcile the world with yourself by the shedding of his blood; let us become his fellow workers in restoring men to your friendship.

All **Lord, remember your Church.**



Fenland Deanery Highlights

The highlights won't be presented, but are given in summary below

Key conversations held:

Dream:

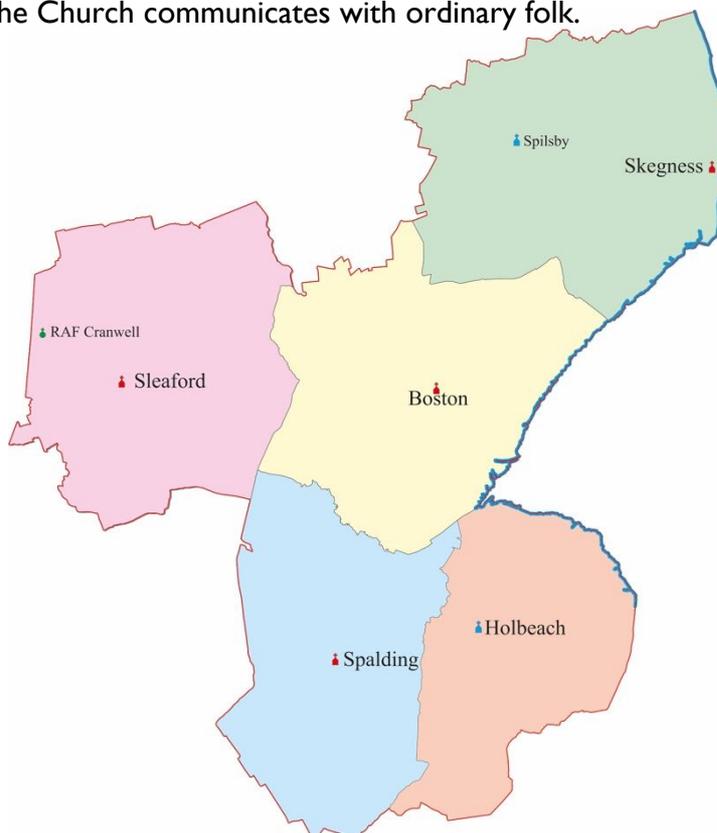
We need to encourage families to church with music and a revitalised little church;
attracting children and young people by children's liturgies;
support of local projects (eg Churches Together in Boston).

Outreach

address the crisis of ongoing adult formation;
parishes to address sick and housebound parishioners, bringing Holy Communion to them;
outreach to local non-Catholic schools.

The Holy Spirit

how are we doing evangelisation and fellowship?
communication is poor via websites and outreach;
simplify how the Church communicates with ordinary folk.



The Lord's Prayer

*All are invited **to stand** as Father Kevin Gradwell, a retired priest of the diocese living in Marple Bridge, and representing the High Peak Deanery, leads the congregation in the Lord's Prayer*

We are invited to pray the Our Father in our own language, representing the universality of our Church

Father Kevin

At the Saviour's command
and formed by Divine teaching,
we dare to say in our own tongue or language:

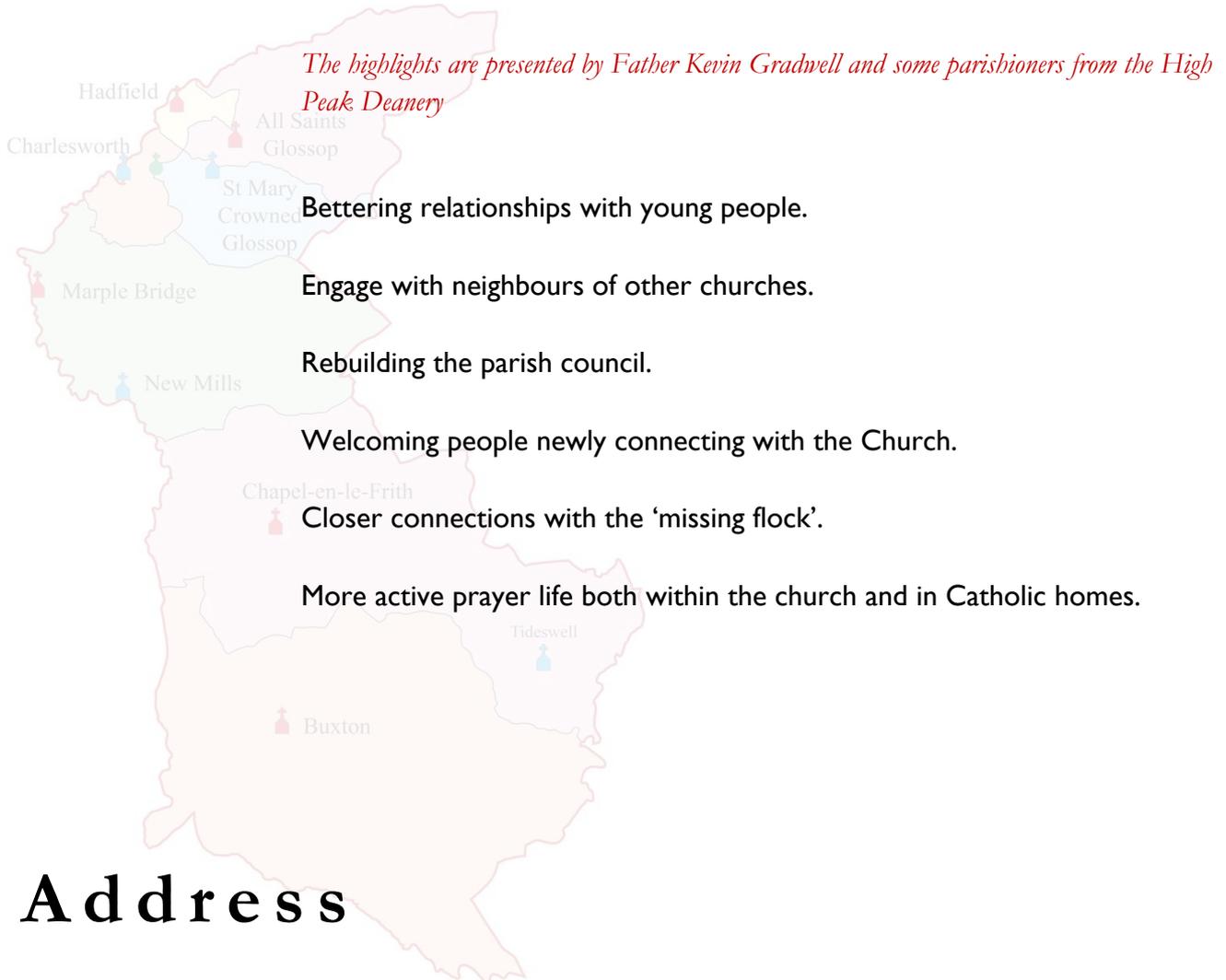
All

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*At the end of the Lord's Prayer all are invited to **sit down***



High Peak Deanery Highlights



Address

A brief Address is given by the Reverend Geoffrey Clarke, Moderator of the East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church, on behalf of the Ecumenical guests present, including the Very Reverend Archimandrite Philip of the Brotherhood of the Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul, from Saint Matthias Church Centre, Lincoln; and Canon Nigel Burton, Chair of the House of Laity, and Canon David Dadswell, Secretary, of the Anglican Diocese of Lincoln.

The Right Reverend Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, sends the following greetings:

We would wish to convey that we look forward to continued opportunities for collaborative working and mission, as we prayerfully seek to contend as one church for the Gospel of Christ across this region.

The Concluding Prayer

*All are invited **to stand** as Father Patrick Bassey, a priest of Ogoja Diocese, Nigeria, working in Saint Hugh's parish, Lincoln, leads the Concluding Prayer on behalf of Lincoln Deanery*

Father Patrick

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
as you built your Church on the rock of Peter's faith,
grant that with such a firm foundation
we may hold fast in every storm.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

All sit at the conclusion of the prayer

Lincoln Deanery Highlights

The highlights are presented by Deacon Warren Peachey, of Our Lady of Lincoln parish, Lincoln

The two actions identified are:

A common focus on Outreach;

(Twice yearly) Deanery Days of Recollection.



Blessing

All stand for the Bishop's blessing

Bishop Patrick
All

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Bishop Patrick

May God, the Father of light, who was pleased to enlighten the disciples' minds by the outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, grant you gladness by his blessing and make you always abound with the gifts of the same Spirit.

All

Amen.

Bishop Patrick

May the wondrous flame that appeared above the disciples at Pentecost, powerfully cleanse your hearts and pervade them with its purifying light.

All

Amen.

Bishop Patrick

And may God, who has been pleased to unite many tongues in the profession of one faith, give you perseverance in that same faith and, by believing, may you journey from hope to clear vision.

All

Amen.

Bishop Patrick

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you for ever.

All

Amen.

At the end of the Blessing all are invited to sit down

Leicester Deanery Highlights

The highlights are presented by Pauline Payne, of Saint Mary's parish, Wigston



Collaboration.

Inclusivity.

Marian Hymn

The celebration of Evening Prayer is concluded with the singing of a Hymn in honour of Mary, our Heavenly Mother, by the Saint Alphonsa Syro-Malabar mission in Leicester. A translation of the Malayalam hymn, Nanma nerum amma, is given below

All stand

Oh! Holy mother who wishes good for all
oh! Heavenly princess
blessed be you most adorable
Mary oh! Mother of all.

Thy most precious child,
child Jesus is he.
Oh! Motherhood of Mary
Mary oh! Mother of all.

Oh! Holy mother, oh! Holy mother
oh! You lamp of the earth
you, Oh! Lady, you, Oh! Lady
are the eternal stream of love.

With outstretched hands, we stand before you,
filling us with your outpouring of love.
Oh! Lady of Mercy,
Mary oh! Mother of all.

Poor children that we are,
dost fold our hands before you.
Tears of love that we bring,
we offer it you as garland of flowers.

Oh! You vessel of hope,
refuge for all,
oh! You universal mother.
Mary oh! Mother of all.

At the end of the celebration of Evening Prayer light refreshments are available in the Cathedral Hall. Please follow the direction of the stewards through the garden

Nottingham Diocesan Draft Synodal Response

Preface: How our journey began...

On Monday 11th October 2021 we distributed prayer cards, liturgy templates for parishes and chaplaincies in advance of a Pastoral Letter written by Bishop Patrick. World Mission Sunday marked the announcement of our first parish meetings over the next fortnight to consider what a Synod is, and how my parish/chaplaincy can contribute to the Synodal Process. Suggested questions for each parish to consider were:

- 1) What is my dream for the Church, for my parish/chaplaincy so that it can become more outward-looking, more missionary?
- 2) To achieve this dream, what do we need to stop doing? What are we doing that needs to be developed or done differently?

On Monday 1st November we then began our schools process of listening to pupils and as well as outreach through the NDCYS (Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service) for encounters with young people who are not in Catholic schools. The six parish questions were adapted to three questions. Our Clergy Deanery Meetings in November considered:

- What's been happening in parish meetings so far; what ideas are emerging?
- Planning for the January Special Deanery Meeting: who will lead the Deanery discussion?

The November Day of Prayer for the Poor spurred the announcement of the second parish meeting to consider:

- 3) As a parish / chaplaincy do we know who are the people who feel marginalised or separated from the parish / chaplaincy and society?
- 4) How best can our parish respond? Suggest at least two identifiable ways (an immediate action and a long-term change) in which, as a parish, we will reach out to, and listen to, the marginalised or separated.

Our World Youth Funday provided an opportunity for our school communities to celebrate their connectedness with schools and young people around the world, recognising that the Holy Spirit brings us all together in the Church as a single family of God. The First Sunday of Advent marked the announcement of third parish meeting to consider:

- 5) How do I hear and respond to the voice of God's Holy Spirit, in my life; what signs of the Spirit at work do I see in the life of my parish/chaplaincy?
- 6) What steps may the Holy Spirit be calling us to take, as a parish/chaplaincy, on our journey together into God's future?

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we announced special deanery meetings open to delegates (lay, religious and clergy) from each of the deanery parishes to enable each parish / chaplaincy to share two actions it has decided upon; this will be followed by a time of prayerful discernment; then discussion and agreement on what as a deanery we can do better together, rather than separate, to enable more fruitful dialogue with the wider community (ecumenically, with other faiths, in charitable outreach and with civic bodies).

Each deanery then submitted a report which was collated and presented at the Cathedral on the Feast of Chair of Saint Peter in February to share our hopes, dreams and action plans.

Key:

[C]=Catholics not in parishes, [Cu]=Curia, [E]=Ethnic Communities, [Ec]=Ecumenical Partners, [L]=LGBTQ Community, [NC]=Non-Catholics, [P]=Parishioners, [Pr]=Prisoners, [R]=Religious, [S]=School Pupils, [Sp]=Spanned, [T]=Travellers, [U]=University Students, [W}=Women, [Y]=Young Adults, [7] Seven Steps Scripture.

The first steps on our journey...

1) What is my dream for the Church, for my parish/chaplaincy so that it can become more outward-looking, more missionary?

Dreams about Greater Participation

- The need for a greater role for women in the liturgy and leadership of the church. [P]
- To administer the sacraments, cherish each other and build a family in common fellowship of faith but do our church doors need to open wider to encourage people to become part of our faith but also to reach out to people who have no interest in being part of our family and effectively engage with them in some way? [Sp]
- Concern about the points women raise being 'discerned out' by the Bishops, but they are aware that this is a matter of concern and so will probably be careful not to do it [W]
- A greater emphasis on outreach to marginalised communities/groups; a reemphasis on the Common Good! [P]
- Keep up with the times and the issues affecting young people; be at one with their concerns, e.g., Climate Change, Bullying, Social Exclusion, child poverty, diverse family situations etc. Modern websites and develop its youth mission. [P] [YA] [S]
- Everyone should understand that the parish needs many other people and the Parish Priest to enable it to operate and flourish. inspiring peer to peer ministry [YA] [P]
- To see young families at Mass and becoming knowing that they have a vital contribution to make to the spiritual and community life of the parish. [P]
- Church's need to invest more time and effort in building a relationship/bond with its local parish community [P]
- Support of Local chaplaincies. Going out versus just opening the doors and hoping. [P]

Dreams about Church Teaching

- Confidence in herself – staying true to the magisterium of the Church [YA]
- A deep desire to see the opportunities of the Second Vatican Council to be realized.
- Move from a centralized, hierarchical structure that excludes or alienates people. [P]
- Re-examine church teaching: married clergy, women priests/deacons, divorce etc; a greater awareness of the changing needs of the people and their relationships with each other and diverse communities; [P] [YA] [C]
- Catholic education needs to "re-set" itself, with the Gospel and Christ at its heart. [P]
- Open senior leadership (reserved) positions in our schools to faith-filled Catholics from the LGBTQ community, those who are remarried and those in long-term partnerships. [S]
- The plethora of rules to become a Catholic is hard to navigate [P]

Dreams about working alongside other Christians and non-Christians

- All willing to 'walk' together on the synodal journey, especially with other denominations – we need to take ecumenism seriously. [P]
- We need to work with the other churches to build fellowship for the youth, men, women, prayer groups, fellowship and support of local projects [P]
- Would like us to be an organisation that people turn to for help, no matter what their faith, ethnicity, background, circumstances. [C]
- The most painful issue that I feel personally regarding church unity, is that the beautiful Eucharistic meal that Jesus gave to all believers, remains one of our strongest points of separation (between me and my Catholic friends). [Ec]

Dreams to be more welcoming

- The church might be a place where all feel welcome as part of a community and are loved and valued for their diverse gifts and experiences. [L]
- All people with any sort of disability be welcomed, included in whatever happens in our parishes, their needs be considered whenever decisions are made and recognised as the valuable members of the Church that they are. [Sp]
- That our own parishioners return to their church. We can't welcome other people by way of evangelisation if we are incapable of welcoming our own parishioners [P]
- Greater social action is required [U]
- Inclusive of different languages, BSL, disabled access, ministry of women [YA] [P]
- More dialogue – more opportunities like this, more accepting of lay roles [YA]
- Try and break the clique, rotating the parish council, back the catechists [YA]
- More school and parish dialogue with support of the clergy [YA]
- Everyone is treated with equal dignity and respect without distinction or preference, without title or hierarchical structure, but all of us working together as a family in the service of our Saviour. [Sp]
- Create a strong community of faith with consistency and accessibility [YA]

Dreams about our Liturgy

- The Mass should be restored to its full form (pre Covid); our churches should be unlocked in between Masses so the faithful (and those seeking faith) are able to sit in quiet contemplation, rather than online Mass becoming the norm [YA][P]
- For all liturgies and catechesis to be relevant – to have beautiful liturgies [YA]
- Have faith woven into day to day experiences e.g. Football Mass with Adoration, Pub with a talk on theology [YA]
- Healthy participation rather than observing [YA]
- Vary Mass styles; retain online/virtual services; more inclusivity at celebrations; more emphasis on adult catechesis especially on difficult topics;[P] [YA]
- Widen availability of the Latin Mass and other rites [Eastern Churches] [YA] [U]

Dreams about growing in our faith

- To be a true reflection of Christ as his bride. We should live like Christ in his humility, kindness, love for humanity, his boundless forgiveness, and his quest for lost souls. [E]
- More Catechesis to increase knowledge and understanding of the faith. [YA] [P]

- Evangelise and Form Mass-goers! [YA]
- That the word of God can be spread throughout the world and that families and individuals come together to pray and understand the scriptures. [P] [YA]
- People have good intentions, but many have not had the encounter experience including knowledgeable catechists who don't operate with the Holy Spirit. [P]
- Reinforce the commandments, 'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself [P]
- Weekday Mass at times people who are working can attend, other opportunities outside the Mass for prayer and to connect with faith [YA]
- Priestly formation shouldn't be all at Seminary. Women need to be involved in the training too. [P]

Dreams about more fruitful communication

- Pandemic made evident that parishes are not 'real' communities – no records, email addresses, etc., [W]
- The Church needs a greater culture of transparency so that everyone feels they have a stake in the business. Confidentiality sometimes seems to be used as a reason for not sharing information. [C] [P]
- Evolve our church from grey haired men making decisions in clandestine rooms [P]
- The Church should stop treating us like ignoramuses and use the skills of all [P]
- The church needs to question why Catholics in some other countries are drawn to worship, why is the Brians successful and transfer these values. [P]
- Stop talking about rebuilding and commit resources to rebuilding. [W]
- Often parishes splinter into small closed groups with no cross communication. [W]
- Giving witness to our faith and belief through our words and actions in conversation with friends and acquaintances who may not be Catholic or even church going. [P]

2) To achieve this dream, what do we need to stop doing? What are we doing that needs to be developed or done differently?

Explore our use of buildings

- Addressing the use and the number of buildings in our local area. [P]
- Improve Parish facilities– improve hall seating – good coffee machines [YA]
- Keeping churches open. Really important, even when there is no resident priest. [W]
- Use the space of the Church more creatively take out pews and make room for a toddler space, child friendly notice board. [P]

Explore our relevance

- Encouraging younger members of the church and younger families to participate in the life of our church communities. [P]
- Being active in the community, beyond the church building. [P]
- Ongoing exploration and development of faith or communities become lukewarm. [P]
- Keep reminding and encouraging parishioners to help the Church, ask them to consider what they can give or do for the Church and to celebrate what the Church does [P]

Exploring our prayer and worship

- Making the church community more than Sunday Mass. [P]
- Helping people find their way back to the church, refocusing on Jesus' teachings. [P]

- To pray every day especially for the Church, its community and Parish Priests
- Seek God in prayer, in the sacrament of reconciliation, retreats. [E]
- I would like more lively music at Mass. [T]
- More activities are needed for children at their level. [T]
- More formation in faith and lively celebrations e.g., healing services are needed to counteract the Born-Again Christian; Nightfever. Adoration [P] [T] [YA]
- Serious worship that draws us to the transcendent and is at the heart of our faith. [U]
- More encouragement for taking on more roles in the Mass [YA]
- While forming committees etc. it is equally important to pray, hear and discern what we are being called to do when we are being asked to 'dream'. [C]
- A strong emphasis on Sacraments, the Saints Pilgrimages and traditional devotions [U]

Exploring education and catechesis

- Address the crisis of ongoing adult formation and the unfortunate exclusion of working persons from being able to attend daily Mass/word and communion. [P]
- Equip everyone, there are many courses available. We need each one of us to have that initial encounter experience then identify our calling. [P]
- Move from our corporate CMAT Leadership Model to a Wisdom Based Model. Appointments are made from those exemplary teachers nearing retirement who are invited to share their gifts for their love of their faith rather than a huge salary. [S]
- Orthodox teaching and preaching. Particularly moral teaching and aesthetics [U]
- The Church's stance on Artificial Intelligence and Metaverse and digital world [U]
- OFSTED for parishes and move away from a focus on buildings and anxieties. [YA] [P]
- Don't expect the parents and the schools to do it all [YA]
- Catholic Schools to teach the meaning of Latin words [YA]

Exploring our inclusivity

- The parish (and the Church at large) should continue to promote and, where necessary seek to extend, an 'inclusive' environment in all aspects, recognising the importance of engaging with the diverse nature of the parish community. [P]
- The church needs to stop: Talking about LGBT people as other, using unfriendly terms such as homosexual (for example use gay), being swift to judge and slow to listen. Covering up and hiding behind a document about what constitutes a 'practicing Catholic' in school appointments. Bishops who are openly hostile to LGBT+ people in places like Poland, Nigeria and in some US dioceses. [L]
- Ask parishioners to be kind and caring to others, inviting them to join the parish [P]
- Eradicate clericalism and remove terms such as 'intrinsicly disordered'. [L]
- Actively listen to the lived reality of LGBT+ people, accompany, care for and offer healing for the past damage done to some of these baptised Catholics.
- Stop being – exclusive; judgemental; negative; violent; precious; let go of hurts; hierarchical; we don't have all the answers; male dominated; legalistic; selfish; insincere; divisive; intolerant; male dominated; clergy dominated [R]
- Travellers now like to be more involved in parish life and would like to be more included as welcomers, readers, and other parish ministries. [T]

Exploring our connection with others

- Missional communities – based on areas of interest – places to bring friends who aren't catholic to ease them into church [YA] [U]
- Making things more accessible – Lourdes is expensive [YA]
- Greater diocesan communications – the diocese is bigger than just Nottingham! [YA]
- 5-a-side football tournaments between parishes [YA]
- When all Wings are together there is a different atmosphere and there is a different atmosphere with Church on the “out”. [Pr]

Explore leadership

- Everyone has a part to play; tap the potential of our cultures; develop CARITAS; be more visible in the locality; penitential services with general absolution; live the Gospel; formation at every level and for everyone. [R]
- Lay people want to be respected as grown-ups – able to take responsibility, make decisions without clerical oversight; clergy have arbitrary powers, can make decisions without consulting, lack skills in teamwork and collaboration. [W]
- Many older people reflected that it is time for the next generation to step up [W]
- Rather than the parish council, have regular meetings for ‘parish team’ – with representatives of every group in the parish [W]
- Appoint salaried Parish Directors where priests are not available. [W]
- Formalise and honour lay ministries. Train lay people to officiate at baptisms, funerals, word and communion services. Deacons could take on more leadership roles [W]
- The agreement here is that Catholic Students need to stand up and be counted. [U]

Explore what we do well

- A place to gather and speak to, come close to and seek forgiveness from God [Pr]
- I experience healing, trust, compassion, kindness, and forgiveness. [T]
- The Mass and sacraments are important to me and my family. [T]
- At a time of difficulty, the Church is where I can go to be supported and listened to. [T]
- Wherever I travel to the first place I look for is the Church and always feel at home. [T]
- The Church understands my culture when I am celebrating the sacraments and that is important to me and when I am struggling the place I want to visit is the Church. [T]
- The reception of the sacraments is important to me and my family. [T]
- Parties and social events [U]

3) As a parish / chaplaincy do we know who are the people who feel marginalised or separated from the parish / chaplaincy and society?

Welcoming as key to mission

- Inclusion needs to be a key driver of missionary activity – especially regarding those who feel marginalized and separated from the church e.g., divorced, LGBTQ [P]

Welcoming those not able to celebrate in church

- The sick and housebound are important members of our parish family. [P]
- We do not know those who are marginalised [P]

- COVID has created a wish not to be physically present in some communities. [P]

Welcoming our growth in learning

- The Church is not in the twenty-first century in its outlook and not accessible [S]
- Barriers must be broken down and opportunities for growing, learning, sharing must be encouraged, a community where everyone is valued. [S]
- Students felt that people were now scared to attend Mass and be labelled Catholic because of all the adverse publicity around abuse in the Catholic Church. [S]

Welcoming those who feel / are separated

- More follow up for the children who disappear after First Communion and welcome those who are part of the LGGBT+ Community. [S] [P]
- Be less judgemental, stop stereotyping and be more supportive [S]
- Excluded communities; this may vary from the sick, the disenfranchised youth, those with undocumented immigration status, those battling financial challenges. African students struggling with studies, loneliness, paying school fees. [E]
- Map out the current church goers and invite them to 'seek and find the marginalised rather than make assumptions that the church is not interested or concerned. [R]
- The Church has much to learn from secular society; including people who 'don't fit'
- Church response to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking very positive. [W]
- Young people may be puzzled and shocked by Church teaching – sometimes incredulous; not impressed by perceived double standards. [W]

Welcoming difference

- To be sensitive to cultural differences and preferences in styles or worship whilst maintaining the uniqueness, integrity and excellence of our traditional liturgies. [P]
- Diocese /Parishes need to be ready to pay for professional skills where these are needed – new technology, fund raising, training, music. [W]
- For too long they [People with disabilities and learning difficulties] had been seen as passive receivers of whatever the Church decided to allow them to be included in but had a distinctive contribution to make, as valuable as any other [Sp]

Welcoming the contributions of a non Faith based community

- In terms of society, it is those who have lost their faith in Christ our Lord. They lack the means to mitigate their pains and difficulties because they do not know how to access unconditional love that God alone can give [P]

4) How best can our parish respond? Suggest at least two identifiable ways (an immediate action and a long-term change) in which, as a parish, we will reach out to, and listen to, the marginalised or separated.

Immediate Action

Actioning a vision of unity

- A quality census programme to allow an effective communication strategy [P]
- To implement a welcoming group and to find those Parishioners who are not on the Parish List to better Communicate. [P]
- The Diocese is Nottingham-centric with little understanding of the challenges and possibilities of the four counties within their remit. [P]

Actioning sacramental growth

- Sacramental life – sacramental preparation being more than a programme, but an evangelization of families; sacraments as a welcoming point to the church community, rather than a “hurdle” to be overcome. [P]

Actioning outreach

- Greater outreach towards the marginalised, through practical support and advice from a the parish community to anyone who needs it; support refugee and asylum seekers; be more welcoming to the stranger with more social opportunities [P]
- Produce a Welcome Card to be given to new parishioners and follow this up by offering a Welcome Pack to the respondents. Send out the parish newsletter along with their own newsletter every week [S] [P]

Actioning stewardship

- Plant trees; recycle; re-use and throw away less; be kinder and more considerate; call out bullying, homophobic attitudes and language, sexist and non-inclusive language; don't gossip and use the internet/phones for the wrong reasons – ie, to hurt, undermine or slander people; reach out to the local community especially the sick, elderly and housebound; work with the SVP to establish 'Young Vinnies in schools; more prayer spaces and resources; school chapels, and school chaplains [S]

Actioning more fruitful celebrations

- To encourage families to church with music and a revitalised little church. Encourage some of the parents to volunteer. Try and make more of a celebration and coffee after mass. (This action is underway with meetings planned with volunteers) [P]
- To restore the social life of the parish to what it was prior to the Pandemic [P]
- Invite the parishioners to the liturgies in school which are led by the children. [S]
- A more active prayer life both within the church and in Catholic homes. [P]

Actioning a learning culture

- Catechesis of the parish: personal à mission à evangelisation. [P]
- A young person from the School to be invited onto the PCC for one year term. [P]
- Educate/ promote the sacraments more (Communion etc). [S]
- More school visits to church to understand the religious artwork and symbolism. [S]

Long-Term Changes

Changing from maintenance to mission

- Develop Personal Prayer opportunities and retreat days involve parents in these too [S]
- Appoint a 'welfare officer' in every parish, who would work with a team within the parish to keep regular contact with those in need [P]

- RE Department, Chaplaincy and Clergy to speak to students about the concerns and misconceptions students have on a range of moral issues [S]
- Develop greater unity between the Protestant and Roman Catholic church in this city – can we make it easier for Roman Catholics to bless our city in a meaningful way [Ec]
- Only put out good news –put out bright photos not just dark and gloomy ones [YA]
- Mission team that would work with the parish (not the role of NDCYS) [YA]
- Priests need to listen and be more welcoming of new people [YA]
- More charitable giving [YA]
- More advertisement videos for different events [YA]
- Doing more stuff for the environment e.g. more projectors and less printing [YA]
- Support hub for parishes at deanery level [C]

Changing from being served to serving others

- Looking to become a “Hub” for services to the local community, [P]
- Improve communications and encourage more volunteers; [P]
- A church of community vs a church of strangers [P]
- Bereavement Group (this was requested repeatedly) [P]
- Ensure parishes have enough staff to achieve what is required of them [C]

Changing from exclusivity to inclusivity

- All Masses should be advertised in all the deanery parishes; develop stronger links between the parishes; wider use of technology and more professional; offer on-line courses; be pro-active and positive about God's call to the priestly or religious life. [P]
- To run a café or a soup kitchen after mid-week Mass for people feeling isolated [P]
- Ask the parish council to take a more active role in the synod process. [P]
- International Mass at Pentecost led by communities from all over the world. [P]
- Visiting Catholics who are sick and going through difficulties. [E]
- Engage with members who no longer come to mass through social media. [E]
- Be welcoming when Travellers visit your parish and look at ways in which you can build relationships with them positively. [T]
- Carry on streaming to allow the housebound to connect to their parishes [P]
- Pastoral Team to ring the elderly/ housebound. [P] [Sp]
- Preserve and protect life from its beginning to its end. Particularly those born with or likely to be born with disabling conditions and support those families. [Sp]

Changing from lone rangers to collaborators

- Greater collaboration between schools and parishes in key events [S] [P]
- Be an invitational Church, focus on welcome ministry/hospitality team [YA] [P]
- Support young people by appointing Youth Ministers to engage with them at parish and Deanery level and prepare them for a meaningful role in society [P]
- It is time for serious thinking, not just going back to that way it was. If we can see and understand the problems, it's up to us – the laity – to do something about them. [W]
- The importance of friendship, drawing people into groups and activities. [W]
- Setting up a Parish Council [P]

Changing from education to formation

- The need to address the crisis of ongoing adult formation [P]
- Reform our parish into domestic church units that will facilitate formation and evangelisation. [P]
- We need many people in our church as catechists and training are imperative. [P]
- To develop a Parish Pastoral plan [P]
- First Holy Communion Children adopt an older parishioner as a prayer partner. [P]

Changing from reactive to proactive

- Review notice boards, social events, and the liturgy to see if they could be more welcoming and inclusive. [P]
- Explore and implement a range of communication techniques to try to get input of thoughts and ideas from a wide range of people. [P]
- A 'What's On event to which groups will be invited to send a representative(s) to run explain to the community will be invited how they can be involved [P]
- Review previous consultations and assemblies that have taken place and ensure any outstanding action is progressed. [P]
- Carry out an evaluation of people's needs. [P]
- Reach out to new housing developments. [P]

5) How do I hear and respond to the voice of God's Holy Spirit, in my life; what signs of the Spirit at work do I see in the life of my parish / chaplaincy?

Hearing through Prayer and Scripture

- Coming together in prayer especially Exposition to rebuild relationships [P]
- Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi, means that prayer and belief are integral to each other and that liturgy is not distinct from theology but also builds on our relationship [P]
- Encourage Prayer groups and Bible Studies, perhaps in each other's homes [P] [E]
- Attending to the things of God and coming to Mass [E]
- Meditation and prayer based on scriptures and reflecting upon this in order to spread the Gospel, in the family and towards our neighbours [P]

Hearing through communication

- Better communicate of ideas and things that are happening across the Diocese. [P]
- We can appear unfriendly whilst trying to respect newcomers' privacy. [P]
- To encourage more participation in activities rather than leave it to the few. [P]
- Much more communication which is open, honest and true. [P]

Hearing through celebration

- Parish churches could organise together common feasts with neighbouring churches of other denominations, especially Anglo-Catholic churches. [P]
- Organise regular pilgrimages and support diocesan pilgrimages [S]

Hearing through the community of faith

- By supporting the church through a stronger community, we would become more welcoming of marginalised people and more evangelising. [E] [P]

- Families and friendships that support each other in times of need. [P]
- Action in community eg, Refugees; fund raising for charities. [P]

6) What steps may the Holy Spirit be calling us to take, as a parish / chaplaincy, on our journey together into God's future?

Growing in discernment

- That Scripture sharing groups based on the Seven Steps model should be established throughout the Diocese; these would be open to priests, religious and lay people; they could be lay led but would need, as a minimum, the support and encouragement of parish clergy. Such groups could have a significant role in the development of a more mission focused Church. [7]
- The signs of the Holy Spirit already at work: Volunteers, active laity [P]
- Whatever loaves and fishes we bring, God will multiply. [P]
- By encountering Christ and practising what we preach. [E] [P]

Growing as evangelisers

- Adult formation "We need to evangelise ourselves to evangelise others" [P]
- By spreading the word of God to family members and friends. [E]
- To remember the commission given by the Lord to make disciples and evangelise. [P]

Growing in hospitality

- Many members remain anonymous and cold. The community should imitate the life of the early Christians and the Apostles. [P]
- Inclusivity with no exceptions, we need to welcome all, even if personal circumstances mean we cannot always live the expected ideals of Church [P]

Growing in humility

- The Church needs to give a public "genuine" apology, supported by publicised action, to those it has damaged/abused - this is the first step needed to regain the trust [P]
- The Church is declining in membership, not just the Catholic Church, across the board, we need to understand why the Church is no longer relevant to people [P]
- Removal of some masses and closure of parishes results in the eroding of parish communities and reinforces the message of "irrelevance". [P]

Growing in communion

- Share good practice with neighbouring parishes e.g. Catechesis and outreach [P]
- Pray together on a regular basis (creating a rhythm of prayer), so that we can listen collectively to the Holy Spirit and what God is calling us to do. [C]

Growing as communicators

- Really Engage with social media – Meet young people where they are. [P]
- To use the rich variety of resources available to evangelise- possible funding [P]
- Catholic community needs to reboot, refresh, re-educate, update. [P]
- Create a family outreach team in union with Catholic schools [P]

Growing in empowerment

- Empower the laity by equipping them to be outspoken on social issues [P]
- The declining number of priests is an opportunity for the church to re-evaluate [P]
- Deanery Faith Co-ordinator to develop opportunities for faith discussion [P]
- A deanery co-ordinator (not a cleric) to get info from parishes and disseminate it [P]
- A lay Synodal deanery team [P]

The next steps on our journey...

Epilogue

From Listening to Discerning

Through Lent to Pentecost each parish, school and chaplaincy is asked to make use of this period to begin implementing the two actions it decided to take forward and each deanery is asked to do the same. Pentecost then offers a special time to celebrate the movement of God's Holy Spirit within our diocese over these past months, and to begin to discern afresh where the Holy Spirit is leading us, the People of God, in our Diocese of Nottingham.

What the Synodal Process has taught us

- There was a strong sense that the synodal process has not been fully thought through, and that there are many highly skilled and competent lay people in the Church with professional experience of qualitative research, project planning and project management, and research quality control, who could be invited to help improve the process. [We have five universities and a lot of advanced engineering businesses in the diocese and they all teach or practice these skills]. [W]
- Noted that deanery event [Leicester] seems to have been dominated by clergy. [W]
- Parishes are supposed to have two people leading synodal process, but who are they? Diocesan leads are Joe Hopkins and Fr David Cain. Good to have more diversity – women, people from the ethnic minority communities - to ensure that all voices are included in the Report. Would be helpful to have more people involved in drafting/editing the Report for the same reason – diversity of perspectives. [W]
- There will be no real outcome of next year's event and all the preparation that is going into it, unless each one of us dedicates ourselves once again to 'the mission' that Our Lord is giving to us. [Sp]



Bishop Patrick's Initial Response

Thank you to everyone who has generously contributed to this draft diocesan Synod Report. You will see from the key to the contributors at the end of the Preface page that, in the short time we had, a genuine attempt was made to engage contributions to the diocesan Synod Process from as wide as possible. There is certainly much for me, and for all of us, to reflect upon and respond to in our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, Religious Houses, diocesan Curia and organisations. Points about doctrinal matters in this report, which cannot be acted upon at diocesan level, will also be sent directly to the Synod Office in Rome.

I would now encourage you to join me in further prayerful reflection upon this draft report, as we seek to be open to the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Please feel free to send any comments or further contributions to Joe Hopkins and Father David Cain (contact details below) by Saturday 19th March, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Church. The final diocesan report must then be sent by Friday 8th April to the Synod Coordinating Team of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales who will then draw up the National Report from the 22 dioceses. Our own diocesan Synod Report will then be distributed widely across the diocese at this point. The National Synod Report once completed, will also be widely available.

Meanwhile, beginning this Thursday, 24th February (see the dates below), I will be travelling to the deaneries to present the challenges facing our diocese and the reasons for the proposed re-organisation of the deanery grouping of parishes across our diocese. I will be accompanied by the two Vicars General, Canons Eddy Jarosz and Joe Wheat, the Chief Operating Officer, David Lawes, and the Episcopal Vicar with oversight for the work of our diocesan Curia, Canon Paul Chipchase. Each evening will also provide an opportunity to present the proposed plan of reorganisation to parish representatives and clergy, and to share the support that the diocesan Curia will be offering to parishes to support this reorganisation and help enable more missionary initiatives. The parish representatives and clergy will discuss the proposed reorganisation that evening, and will then bring the plan back to their parishes for further discussion of how to make it work. This proposed plan, some of which has already been implemented by parishes, seeks to help our parishes, schools and chaplaincies to be better supported in becoming more outward-looking and mission focussed, while also striving to respond creatively to the harsh reality of the declining numbers of parishioners and priests.

The diocesan Synod process and the necessary reorganisation of deaneries to help support mission are very much inter-connected. Together they will help shape our next steps as a diocese in genuine renewal and a stronger sense of missionary purpose. Please join me in asking the Holy Spirit to inspire, guide and bless all our diocesan initiatives as we strive to become the Church, here in the East Midlands, that God is calling us to be.

+ *Patrick*

Bishop of the Nottingham Diocese

Diocesan Synod Leads

Father David Cain david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Joe Hopkins joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Deanery Roadshows

Sherwood	Thursday 24 th February	Holy Trinity, Newark
Lincoln	Monday 28 th February	Our Lady of Lincoln, Lincoln
Nottingham	Monday 7 th March	Cathedral, Nottingham
Loughborough	Thursday 10 th March	Sacred Heart, Loughborough
Leicester	Monday 14 th March	Saint Theresa, Birstall
Grantham	Monday 21 st March	Saint Joseph, Oakham
Lindsey	Thursday 24 th March	Corpus Christi, Cleethorpes
Fenland	Thursday 31 st March	Saint Mary, Boston
Amber Valley and High Peak	Monday 4 th April	Saint Joseph, Matlock
Derby	Thursday 7 th April	English Martyrs, Derby

Our Lady Immaculate

Patron of our Diocese

Pray for Us!



Saint Hugh of Lincoln

Patron of our Diocese

Pray for Us!

