



Bringing Our Parish Vision to life Holy Innocents' Catholic Church, Orpington – Parish Pastoral Plan 2017

Introduction from the Parish Co-responsibility Group

The process

On the inside pages of this leaflet, you will find the Parish Pastoral Plan 2017. We developed it in a series of meetings, in which we:

- reviewed our previous Parish Pastoral Plan, for 2013-2015
- looked at every idea raised by parishioners in consultations in autumn 2016
- thought carefully about each aspect of our pastoral life as a parish.

The aims

Inspired by Father Victor's challenge to put our Parish Vision at the centre of everything we do as a parish, the Parish Pastoral Plan 2017 aims:

- to link each aspect of the parish's pastoral life to our Parish Vision
- to set realistic goals, inspired by our Parish Vision, for each of those aspects for the next 12 to 18 months. That is not much time, so we have already made a start in some areas
- by doing so, to move a little closer to making the Parish Vision a reality.

The different aspects of our parish life

In our thinking and planning, we have used the same 'umbrella' breakdown of our parish life and activity as we use in the welcome pack, the newsletter and the website. Of course these are not hard and fast divisions and there is much overlap between them, but they do help us to identify and celebrate the different aspects of our life as a parish:

- **Our families** – our work with children, young people and young families
- **Our fellowship** – the work and activities which sustain our community life together, divided into 'practical and financial' and 'social and support' strands
- **Our liturgy** – our celebration of Mass and other communal acts of worship
- **Our mission** – what we do to carry out the mission of the church through evangelisation and social action seeking to benefit the wider community
- **Our prayer and formation** –including our sacramental life and formation.

Bringing Our Parish Vision to life

Parish Pastoral Plan 2017



Our families

As a parish, we will:

- continue to implement the 'Our present and our future' paper on our work with children, young people and young families,
- as part of that, find better ways to oversee, coordinate and involve young people in the planning of that work
- seek to enhance the ties between the parish and Holy Innocents' Catholic School

We would also like to:

- continue our efforts to involve children and young people in altar serving, music, reading and other ministries

Scope of the 'Our families' umbrella: our work with children, young people and young families. Apart from the following groups, we think under this heading about sacramental formation for children (covered under "Our prayer and formation" below)

Relevant groups/activities: Baby Chorus/Children's Liturgy/Faith in Action/Faith, Hope and Fun/Holy Innocents' School/uniformed organisations/Youth Ministry (Deanery YMP) Team

Link to Our Parish Vision: retaining the participation of our young people has long been considered one of the main 'Challenges and opportunities' faced by the parish; being as welcoming and supportive as possible to young families is a key part of our 'Evangelisation and outreach'

Our liturgy

As a parish, we will:

- redouble our efforts to ensure that each of our Masses and other liturgies is welcoming and inclusive and celebrated with joy and reverence

We would also like to:

- continue to focus on our ministry of welcoming
- try out different times for weekday Masses, e.g. occasional evening Masses and having Healing Masses during the day

Scope of the 'Our liturgy' umbrella: the numerous activities involved in preparing for and celebrating Masses and other services

Groups/activities under umbrella: altar linen/altar servers/collectors/eucharistic ministers/flower arrangers/musicians (choir and music group)/readers/sacristans/welcomers

Link to Our Parish Vision: we 'Stay rooted in the Word of God, celebration of the Sacraments, prayer and adoration', remembering that the Eucharist is the source and summit of all we do

Our fellowship – practical and financial

As a parish, we will:

- support the team leading on the design and building of the new Parish Complex
- establish a Communications Team
- revamp the Welcome Pack and seek to make greater use of the new database

We would also like to:

- investigate the re-launching of the repository, in an alcove in St Joseph's Hall
- support the Finance Committee in its aim of improving transparency about parish finances

Scope of this section of the 'Our fellowship' umbrella: dealing with the practicalities of parish life

Groups/activities under umbrella: cleaners/collection counters/Communications Team including website and newsletter/Finance Committee/fire wardens/Folders Group/gardeners/Gift Aid/pamphlets and periodicals/parish premises and Parish Complex/Parish Office/Safeguarding Team

Link to Our Parish Vision: the necessary work undertaken in these areas is an example of 'Together taking responsibility' for our life as a parish and enables us to meet the 'Challenges and opportunities' that we face. As an added gift from God, many of the groups involved here form 'Small communities' enriching our overall 'Communion'

Our fellowship – social and support

As a parish, we will:

- improve coordination of the home visiting and other support for the sick and housebound and their carers
- review and improve the process by which we welcome and integrate new arrivals into the parish (linked to the revamp of the Welcome Pack mentioned above)

We would also like to:

- seek to provide opportunities for the different ethnic groups that make up our parish community in leadership, liturgy, social events, providing refreshments and other aspects of parish life

Scope of this section of the 'Our fellowship' umbrella: parish social activities and support focused mainly on parishioners

Groups / activities under umbrella:

Bereavement Support Group / Friday Club / Golf Club / A Listening Ear / Refreshments after Mass / Social and Fundraising Group / Walkers Group / 200 Club; and support for sick and housebound

Link to Our Parish Vision: we 'Together [take] responsibility' for each other, seeking to grow our 'Communion of small communities' and to identify and help with some of the many 'Challenges' faced by people in our parish community

Our mission – evangelisation and social action

As a parish, we will:

- seek to revive the parish Justice and Peace Group

We would also like to:

- reach out, including by offering regular Alpha course, to people who might want to explore Christianity
- focus in all of our parish groups and activities, but in particular the Outreach Group and the Parish Evangelisation Cells, on attracting, welcoming and integrating newcomers and those returning to active practice into our parish community and life

Scope of the 'Our mission' umbrella: our work in evangelisation and social action, reaching out to the wider community

Evangelisation groups / activities: Outreach Group / Parish Evangelisation Cell System / Alpha

Social action groups / activities: Bromley Foodbank / CAFOD / Catholic Women's League / Churches Together in Orpington / hospital ministry / Justice and Peace / Luncheon Club / Missio / Street Child Africa / St Vincent de Paul Society

Link to Our Parish Vision: we 'Together [take] responsibility' for the mission of the church in our 'Evangelisation and outreach', in which being welcoming and inclusive, including in our various 'Small communities', plays such an important role

- learn more about the needs of our wider community, to see where as a parish we are being called to help

Our prayer and formation

As a parish, we will:

- seek ways of helping parishioners, starting with those in leadership roles in the parish, to identify the charisms and gifts they could use to enrich the life of our parish community
- review and seek to enliven the Parish Prayer Meeting

We would also like to:

- encourage ministers to pray together before Mass
- introduce a prayer calendar for the parish
- consider how we publicise prayer and formation resources, including online resources

Scope of umbrella: our parish prayer life; groups and activities devoted to prayer and formation, including sacramental preparation

Groups / activities under umbrella: Adoration Room / Coordinator of prayer and formation / Healing Mass and Healing Prayer Team / library / The Living Word / Mothers Prayers / Parish Prayer Meeting / sacramental formation (Baptism / Confirmation / Holy Communion / Marriage / Journey in Faith)

Link to Our Parish Vision: we are called to 'Stay rooted in the Word of God... prayer and adoration', collectively and in each of the 'Small communities' that form our parish 'Communion'

Our Parish Vision



“Together taking responsibility for:

- building on our history and our strengths
- staying rooted in the Word of God, celebration of the Sacraments, prayer and adoration
- developing as a "communion of small communities", focused on evangelisation and outreach
- being ready for the challenges and opportunities we face together.

Cherishing our past and those things which we love about Holy Innocents’, but stepping out in faith in radically new ways as we attempt to become the Parish we are called to be.”

